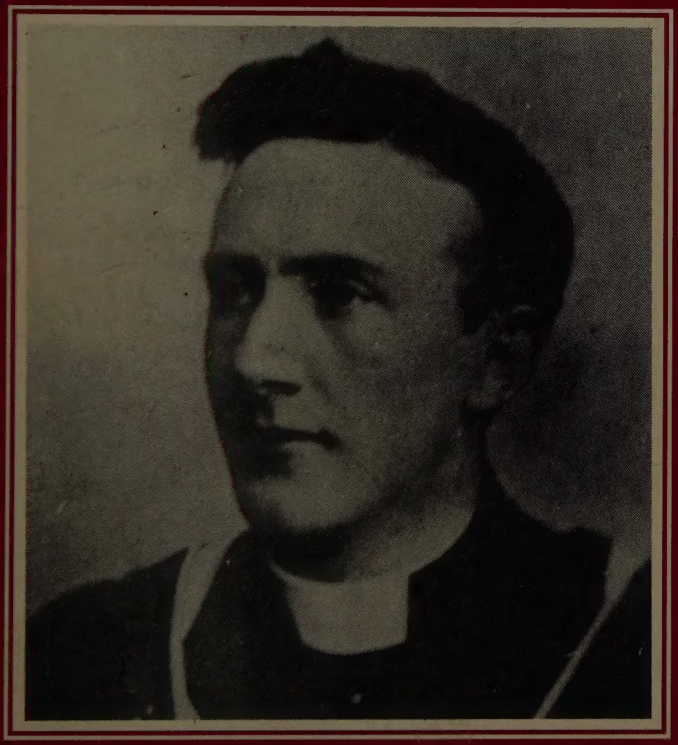
C.L.C.G.

Cumann Peile An Athar Ó Griobhtha, Gaillimh

Fr. Griffin Gaelic Football Club, Galway



The First Forty Years

Compiled and Edited by

Paddy O'Brien and Mick O'Sullivan

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C.L.C.G.
Cumann Peile an Athar Ó Gríobhtha
(Gaillimh)

A History of the Fr. Griffin Gaelic Football Club
and Juvenile Wing – St. Augustines

"The First Forty Years"

Compiled and Edited by

Paddy O'Brien

and

Mick O'Sullivan

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This book is dedicated to the memory of
Fr. Michael Griffin 1892 - 1920
and the deceased Members of the
Fr. Griffin Club.

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Mary Higgins-Rooney

While a number of people contributed to the writing of this book, the awesome task of deciphering hundreds of pages of written and scribbled match reports and articles fell on the shoulders of Mary Higgins and her husband Pat Rooney. Only people engaged in the book printing business can fully understand the mammoth task this young couple undertook. The Fr. Griffin Club are deeply indebted to Mary and Pat for their enormous contribution in preparing this book for you the readers. I am sure that Pat won't mind if I mention that hard work comes naturally to Mary. After all she is the daughter of the one and only Paddy Higgins who needs no introduction.

P. O'B.

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FOREWORD

Con Murphy, speaking as President in 1977, lamented that one of the shortcomings of the Gaelic Athletic Association was the lack of well researched and compiled histories of its basic motivation activities and work. Since then, particularly with the passing of the centenary year in 1984 the Association has seen a proliferation of publications each in their own way providing their piece of history for the gaels of the future and indeed the present. While the many major publications will steal pride of place surely time will prove that the Club Histories will prove to be the most valuable additions to the Association. Coming, as we do, in the wake of the Centenary Year and celebrating our own short 40 years I know that our readers will share my view that the effort has been well rewarded and that our history can stand side by side with those of our sister clubs, each becoming a cog in the wheel of the overall.

Many hard hours of work have gone into the preparation of this history. A simple thank you to all concerned seems so inadequate, yet intended, as it is, with the utmost sincerity, I can think of no greater way of expressing the gratitude of myself and fellow members for a job so well done. Many happy memories have been revived for older members and indeed may I suggest regrets for some of the lost opportunities. Younger members will be surprised to find so many of today's club activists were themselves stalwarts of the playing field in the earlier years of the Club. Yes indeed these members are from an era that bred the staunchest of G.A.A. men and at a time when it was not always the most popular of courses to take.

Invidious as it may seem to single out individuals it is a risk I must take as justice would never be satisfied if our Editor, Paddy O'Brien with whom I would equally couple Mick O'Sullivan, his able assistant, were both not expressly thanked. Apart from their individual input to them fell the onerous task of putting it all together.

We, Fr. Griffins, feel the welfare of the G.A.A. has been well served by us over this past 40 years. Our fortunes in the eighties have not measured up to the magnificent successes of the earlier decades but is our aim that the boys of to-day, perhaps inspired by this publication, will have that position well reversed when it comes to recording the 5th decade of the club's existence.

M O Dolâin

Cathaoirleach

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This is the team that made history by winning the Senior Championship eight months after the Clubs foundation in 1948. Standing, from left: Aidan Corrigan, Staff Lally, Sean Kindillon, Redmond Newell, Mick Flaherty, Paddy Lalor, Fr. Tom Parker, Mick Fenton, Seamus Reidy, Mick Dowling, Mick Lynch (Sec.), Gerry Reidy (Trainer), Bill Naughton. Kneeling: Martin Kilmartin, Paddy Higgins, Paddy O'Brien, Jimmy Ward (Capt.), Austin Roche, J. J. Walsh, Paddy Fitzmaurice, Seamus O'Rourke, John Davy and Mick Collins. Inset: Mick Sullivan, Mossy Holly.

FR. MICHAEL GRIFFIN

by Peadar O'Dowd

Sunday morning, 21st November 1920 will never be forgotten. For Galway city shuddered then as the cry reverberated from mouth to mouth, from house to house, from street to street, spreading ever outwards from St. Joseph's Church. "Fr. Griffin is dead!" The young Rahoon Parish curate, missing from the previous Sunday night, was gone from this world. He was gone from his people. After a week of growing anxiety the news when it came stunned a city already numb from the violence of "The Troubles".

John Rushe, the authority on Fr. Michael Griffin writing in Vexilla Regis, Maynooth Laymen's Annual 1961-2, describes what followed. "There is no telling of the heart-rending scenes witnessed in the Galway churches that Sunday morning when the announcement was made that young Father Griffin's body was found in Cloughskoltia bog at Barna the night before, shot through the head. A shudder of horror passed through the congregation, turning the House of God into a place of anguish. Women and even men sobbed aloud. Little girls and children cried as if their hearts would break. Priests broke down and wept. Those hours of torment are indelibly engraved on the minds of those who lived then and indeed their effects are apparent to this day."

Today almost seventy years after the event, one can still imagine the shock that the murder of a priest had on the general public. This shock and outrage must have been all the greater as Fr. Griffin was probably the most popular and best known priest of his time. This was especially so in Barna and Furbo, which he administered to as a curate of Rahoon Parish. In truth, however, Fr. Griffin was not the curate to tend solely to his priestly duties during a time that saw the Fight for Independence at its height. He was fully in sympathy with the aspirations of his fellow countrymen. He was always ready to lend them his priestly hand whether it was driving out on his trusty motorcycle to warn Paraic O'Maille of Maam Cross (later to become deputy speaker at Dail Eireann) of a pending raid or administering the Last Rites to the mortally wounded Seamus Quirke as he lay dying in his arms.

Yet Fr. Griffin was above all the childrens' priest. John Rushe states that it was the young priest's delight to be ever in their midst and he never felt happier than when helping to organise their sports and pastimes. The younger they were the better he liked them, and indeed he was rarely ever seen in the streets without the company of his 'Guardian Angels' around him. He was as great a child as any of them. His wonderful way with children was best illustrated one Sunday in St. Joseph's Church when he came down to the rails as was his custom to address the congregation during Mass. Before he could utter a word a

little girl brimful with enthusiastic affection ran towards him and shouted out "I love you Father Dribben".

Yet Fr. "Dribben's" love for his younger flock did not rest there on the streets. It was one of the proudest boasts of the late Fintan Coogan, Senior, that Fr. Griffin was one of the very first to organise football teams in the schools and he (Ald. Coogan) was on one of the Patrician Brothers' teams which defeated St. Ignatius College. This alone would have been justification for naming a football club after him. But there were many other strings to the long six foot bow that was Fr. Griffin, the priest with the golden auburn hair and blue eyes.

To find them we must go back to his origins and his place of birth, far from his last home, at No. 2 Montpelier Terrace in the Crescent. Fr. Michael Griffin was born in 1892 at Gurteen, a small picturesque village between Athenry and Ballinasloe. His father Thomas was a well-to-do farmer and for many years was Chairman of Galway Co. Council. His mother was one of the Kynes of Clonbur. Michael Griffin led a very happy childhood in Gurteen, attending the local national school and serving mass at the local church. Even at this young age Michael was turning his footsteps towards God.

On his fourteenth birthday Michael entered St. Joseph's College, Ballinasloe to begin his secondary school education. In 1910 he entered Maynooth where he studied for the priesthood and according to Dr. Doherty of Clonfert, then Dean of Studies there Michael was a model student, strong in character and very popular with his fellow students and staff alike. As Michael was being ordained a priest in 1917 in St. Nathy's at the age of 25 years, fate was already playing its part. Just then the Bishop of Galway, Dr. O'Dea, needed a priest urgently for his own diocese and so he contacted Dr. Doherty. Dr. Doherty had just the man for the job and so Fr. Michael Griffin came to work in the diocese of Galway. He began his public life as a curate in Ennistymon that same year.

It was here that another trait of this unique man became clear. His devotion to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, in whose presence he spent many a long hour each day became common knowledge to his parishioners, and within a short time he was being referred to as "Saintly Fr. Michael". When he was transferred the following year to the Parish of Rahoon with special responsibilities for Barna and Furbo his saintly quality soon became apparent to his new brethren. They too could only marvel at the time he spent in silent prayer before the altar in the presence of his God. His example had an uplifting spiritual effect on them and made their worldly hardships much easier to bear. It is an understatement to say that during his short public life of three years, his saintliness had a profound effect on all who knew him. He

led by example and his Christ-like care of the sick and the young marked him a priest apart, a saintly figure shining like a beacon of hope in a land slipping into despair.

To a youth from Gurteen this was a strange land, a land of rain and mist, a land of bog and rock, and yet a land breathing the very Irish traditions and customs that he loved and admired. Fr. Michael revelled in it. Further long hours of self-study followed and he became a proficient Irish speaker, retaining probably a faint trace of that Gurteen accent. An excellent article about Fr. Michael in the recent publication 'Bushypark Celebrates' delves into this aspect of the young priest's great love of Ireland, its culture, its language and traditions. We are told that during his pitifully short period in Connemara "He started a branch of Connradh na Gaeilge and of the Fainne. He had a Feis in Barna at which currach racing was a feature. He began a lending library of Irish books in the Barna district and this at a time when Irish books were at a premium". Fr. Michael was at home. His noisy motor bicycle was soon a familiar sight on wet and windy bumpy Connemara boreens as he brought God to the wildest parts of his parish. Soon, alas, he was to lie beneath its sods.

For the end for Fr. Michael Griffin came quickly. Sunday 14th November, 1920 was the last day he was to spend on this earth. A mass in Furbo, followed by one in Barna began his day. Then on to St. Joseph's church in the evening for the Holy Hour and Evening Devotions. A quick trip to St. Mary's College followed where as Spiritual Director he addressed the Children of Mary. Then home to his house at Montpelier Terrace where he was visited by three of his parish friends, one of whom was James O'Dea, later to become the driving force of the G.A.A. in County Galway. As they left at ten o'clock, a storm was beginning to blow.

It was nothing compared to the human or should one say inhuman storm that banged on Fr. Griffin's door later that night. Three figures clad in light coats and trilby hats gained admittance and left shortly afterwards with Fr. Michael in the direction of Lenaboy barracks. Fr. Michael was never seen alive again.

A week passed and then on Saturday came the dreadful discovery in the bog at Barna. Fr. O'Meehan fellow curate of Fr. Michael reported to the Connacht Tribune what ensued: "It was about half-past seven when the messenger (young Cloherty from Barna) arrived. Up to then we had hopes that Fr. Griffin was alive and safe as no one thought that anyone would be so iniquitous as to put to death a priest who had never done conscious wrong to anyone. Accompanied by Fr. Mitchell and Fr. Sexton I proceeded to the scene. By the light of a lantern and the assistance of men with spades and shovels we scraped the earth carefully

away. . . . It was a scene that I shall never forget. The moon lit up the landscape occasionally through scudding clouds and out at sea the marguerite buoy moaned persistently. Presently one of the boys who was down in the mud searching carefully with his hands, speaking almost in a whisper said "I have found a priest's collar, Father here is poor Fr. Griffin".

The rest is history. His body was taken with much difficulty to St. Joseph's Church on Sunday morning 21st November and after being washed and cleaned it lay in state before the high altar as thousands of grief stricken people called to pay their last respects. On Tuesday morning after solemn requiem mass the start of the funeral journey took place through the streets of Galway. It was one of the largest ever seen with 3 bishops, 150 priests and over 12,000 mourners participating, as the city he loved paid its last farewell to the dead priest. Fr. Michael's body was taken to Loughrea Cathedral and burial took place the following day under the shade of this great church. Fr. Michael Griffin was home amongst his own people, just three short years after leaving them.

Yet Galway city will never forget Fr. Michael Griffin. As the old thatched Claddagh village made way for the present housing estate in the early thirties, the newly opened road leading westwards towards Salthill was named in his honour – the commemoration plaque at the junction with Lower Salthill still recalls the fact in his own beloved "sean gaeilge". Other plaques, memorials, clubs and cumman perpetuate his name, stretching all the way from Barna to Loughrea. As well surely one of the greatest tributes ever given to Fr. Griffin was the marvellous lecture on "The Life and Death of Rev. Fr. Griffin" which was delivered by John Rushe to the Fr. Griffin Gaelic Football Club in May 1958. This lecture has happily been captured on tape and when played by Fr. Des Forde before Fr. Griffin's anniversary mass in St. Joseph's Church last November moved many a tear.

Perhaps, then, it is only fitting that we should leave the last words on Fr. Michael Griffin to his great admirer John Rushe when he says "His is the story of a life full of virtue and of death set in tragic glory". It was a short life.

CHAPTER 1

The Beginning

On the 14th February 1948 a news item appeared in the old Galway Observer, alas now no longer with us. This is an exact reproduction of that item.

NEW FOOTBALL CLUB

A very enthusiastic meeting of Gaels was held recently at the C.Y.M.S. Hall, Galway for the purpose of forming a football club in the city. After a lengthy discussion the plans were made for the formation of the club which will be known as the Fr. Griffin G.F.C. Many meetings have taken place and it has been decided to affiliate a senior and a junior football team in the current year's championship. If there are any interested and wish to become members of the club, they should contact any member of the committee or write to the Hon. Secretary. Great strides have been taken to ensure success and so far the seeds of a good senior team have been laid. The following have been appointed –

Chairman:	John Davy
Vice-Chairman:	Stephen Lally
Secretary:	Sean Kindillon "Gracedieu", Fr. Griffin Road
Treasurer:	Jimmy Ward
Committee:	Austin Roche, J.J. Walsh, Paddy Fitzmaurice, Tom Brady.

Mick Lynch and Willie Naughton have been appointed board delegates.

That was the first public announcement of the formation of the Fr. Griffin Gaelic Football Club. Nobody at that time, not even the founders of the club realised that Galway City's greatest ever Gaelic Football club had come into being. A club that was to establish records that never before or since have been equalled. The only city club to win three senior championships in a row, the only city club to have won the senior football title on seven occasions, the only city club to win the Connacht Championship on two occasions. Fr. Griffin's have also won the Senior League and County Championships at juvenile, minor and under twenty-one age levels.

This year we are celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Club's founding and we believe that even though we are a young club we are a club with a proud history. We still have a number of our founder members actively involved in club affairs, so we have a reservoir of information at first hand from memory, in addition to local newspaper reports readily made available to our researchers by Galway County Library to whom we are grateful.

We propose to tell the story of the club in a straight-forward and factual manner, the story of our triumphs and our great tragedy. The great footballers and the great characters, we had them in abundance. Indeed this is the story behind the story of the Fr. Griffin Gaelic Football Club.

Editor

Fr. Griffin's made their debut in the County Senior Championship on Sunday the 11th April, 1948 when they played An Cead Cath (The Army) in Fahy's Field, Renmore. Both Griffins and the Army were to meet many times over the coming years, with honours fairly evenly divided, but in this first ever meeting it was the sweet smell of success for Griffins who came out on top winning by 2-2 to 1-2 for Army. The following is a report from the Connacht Tribune -

> "Fr. Griffins, the newly formed Gaelic Football club in Galway City got off to a flying start in the County Championships (Crean Cup) first round played at Fahy's Field, Renmore on Sunday when they defeated Army in a match which though it produced no really brilliant football nevertheless was interesting to watch as at no stage except in the closing minutes could you pick out the winners".

The report goes on to state that Mick Collins was outstanding at centre half back while Jimmy Ward at centrefield also had a very good game. After a slow start Sean Kindillon came into his own while Paddy Higgins, Austin Roche and Mick Donoghue were other forwards to impress. Army had good players in Condon, Coll, Vin Bastin and Malone. Two of the Fr. Griffin's team were selected to play for Galway in a challenge against Mayo two weeks later; they were Jimmy Ward and Sean Kindillon and they were the first of many Fr. Griffin players who were to wear the maroon and white of Galway over the years, bringing honour not only to themselves but also to their club.

In the second round of the championship Griffins met Annaghdown and this game took place in Currandulla on the 2nd May. Once more Fr. Griffins were victorious winning by 2-3 to 0-5. The Tribune informs us that the game was a robust one, but Griffins played the more constructive football. Annaghdown were beaten through faulty shooting on the part of their forwards, a lack of understanding in all sectors and a tendency of going for the man rather than the ball. For the winners Mick Dowling, J.J. Walsh and Mick Collins were very sound in defence, Mick Flaherty had a good game at centrefield while Paddy Lawlor and Mick Lyons were the pick of the forwards. Best for Annaghdown were the Burke brothers and Joe Duggan.

While Fr. Griffins were gaining in experience the opposition was getting harder as we were to find out in our next game. This game took place in Tuam on the 27th June against Dunmore. Aided by a strong breeze in the first half Griffins had a comfortable lead at half-time, being ahead by 3-4 to 0-2. Even with the breeze in the second half

This photograph of the 1948 team was taken at the back of the C.Y.M.S. Hall in Mill Street some weeks after the final. Back row, from left: Gerry Reidy, Sean Kindillon, Martin Kilmartin, Mick Flaherty, Mick Collins, Mick Fenton, Tom Brady, Sonny Molloy, Paddy Fitzmaurice, John Davy, Rev. Fr. Tom Parker, Mick Lynch. Front row, from left: Staff Lally, Paddy O'Brien, Paddy Higgins, Jimmy Ward, Austin Roche, J. J. Walsh, Redmond Newell, Aidan Corrigan, Eamonn Cotter (mascot). Missing from this photo are Mick Dowling, Seamus O'Rourke, Seamus Reidy and Paddy Lalor, all of whom played in the final.

Dunmore failed to impress until the last quarter. Then Howley and Greaney began to combine well and placed their forwards for several scoring chances. Three goals were scored in quick succession and they were in hard luck in not adding the equalising point. The final score was Fr. Griffins 4–5, Dunmore 3–7. Best for the winners were Mick Dowling, Paddy Higgins, Jimmy Ward, Tom Brady and Austin Roche, while Dunmore was best served by Howley, Greaney, Fahy and Coleman.

Having survived that cliff–hanger against Dunmore Fr. Griffins were in a better frame of mind against Caherlistrane in the next round, but once more were put to the pin of their collar to survive. This game took place in the Sportsground on the 22nd August and Griffins were favourites to win. However we played very disappointing football and could not raise our game. Midway through the second half there was a torrential downpour of rain and the referee abandoned the game. The sides were level at the time. This game was replayed in Tuam on the 5th September and on this occasion Fr. Griffins left no doubt that they were the better side, pulling out all stops they romped home by 3–8 to 1–5. Griffins completely outclassed the opposition in the second half and were best served by Seamus O'Rourke, Mick Dowling, Jimmy Ward, Sean Kindillon, Austin Roche, J.J. Walsh and Tom Brady.

And so Fr. Griffins now found themselves in the County Semi–Final against U.C.G. In the four earlier games we were experimenting with players trying to find the right combination, by now the selectors had a shrewd idea of the final composition of the team. All it required was moving two or three pieces in the jigsaw to get the final picture, and the selectors did just that. Mick Dowling who had started as a full back moved to the right full position while his place was taken by Seamus O'Rourke. Paddy O'Brien who had played in the earlier games at left full back was switched to the full forward position and Seamus Reidy took over at left full. Aidan Corrigan joined Paddy O'Brien in the forward line to link up with the regulars namely Sean Kindillon, Paddy Higgins, Austin Roche and Paddy Lawlor. The selectors had got it right! Our opponents U.C.G. had a great team with many inter–county players, indeed three of the team had played with Mayo in the All–Ireland final against Cavan the previous Sunday. Cavan won this game by 4–5 to 4–4 and the U.C.G. players involved were Billy Kenny, Peter Solan and the mighty Pat McAndrew. U.C.G. also had Bill McQuillan, Roscommon, Mick Costello, Galway and many other star players. For two weeks before the game Griffins did a course of indoor training in the Commercial Boat Club which was also a dance hall at that time. Mick Dowling and Gerry Reidy were in charge of the training exercises which culminated in running out the Headford Road as far as

Ballindooly Castle and back again in total darkness. On the Sunday of the match we all assembled once more in the Commercial where our masseur Waller Kelly gave a brisk rub down to some of the older players and the selectors announced the team. The team and officials then travelled in a fleet of cars to the Sportsground, this was unheard of at that time and another first for Fr. Griffins. And so to the game itself and this is how the Connacht Tribune reported it –

NEW GALWAY TEAM QUALIFY BY WIN OVER U.C.G. FOR SENIOR FOOTBALL FINAL
FR. GRIFFINS 4–7 U.C.G. 3–6

By defeating U.C.G. at Galway Sportsground on Sunday, Fr. Griffins, playing their first year in the Galway Senior Football Championship qualified for the final against Ballinasloe.

Sunday's semi–final was a robust close–tackling affair rather than a game of brilliant football but the keenness of the exchanges gave it a grip on the spectators until the final whistle even though Griffins had matters sewn up more or less safely before the interval.

The report goes on to state that the deciding factor was the grand teamwork developed by the winning team, they handled the ball more surely than their opponents and they introduced a dash that frequently enabled them to cut in ahead of a college player to the ball. One of the highlights of Griffins' effort was the place–kicking from frees by Kindillon. Corrigan, O'Brien and Lawlor made up a grand full forward line. Ward had a good game at centrefield and O'Rourke, county fullback, kept as close a tag on Solon (Mayo) as he had done in the Connacht Final. The report goes on that Mick Dowling cleared every ball that came his way and might be described as the real star of the Griffins defence, while Paddy Higgins scored a great goal from thirty yards out on the wing. Scorers for Griffins who led at half time by 3–4 to 1–3 were – Paddy O'Brien 1–1, Paddy Higgins 1–0, Austin Roche 1–0, Paddy Lawlor 1–0, Sean Kildillon 0–4, Jimmy Ward 0–2.

I have dealt in some detail with this game and the reason why I do so is that this was the turning point for Fr. Griffins. By this great victory Griffins informed the football world that they were a team to be reckoned with. And so we move on to the final against Ballinasloe, another game, another story.

Following their great victory over U.C.G., Griffins resumed training the following Thursday in their favourite pitch South Park, better known as the "Swamp" and it was a swamp at that time. The surface

consisted of red clay with broken glass protruding, hardly a patch of grass and no goal posts. Our showers were a horse trough over near the high wall that surrounded the pitch, and after a hard bout of training we washed off the mud and the blood (remember the glass) in the horse trough. We also returned to the Commercial for our indoor training under Messrs Dowling and Reidy, and our nightly run out the Headford Road. The final was fixed for Tuam on Sunday 24th October and there was tremendous interest amongst our loyal supporters. At that time shortly after the war many commodities were still rationed and there were very few cars on the road for hire, so the club hired four buses from CIE. The total cost of hire was £27.00. On Final Day, which was cold and wet, approximately 150 of our supporters assembled in Eyre Square to travel to Tuam to cheer on the team. After the semi-final win over U.C.G. Griffins were slight favourites to take the title but we knew Ballinasloe were an experienced side; they had won the title in 1944 and 1945 and indeed had won the championship on fifteen occasions. When Griffins took the field for the game the late Jimmy Walsh, the Connacht Tribune photographer, was on hand to take the first ever photograph of the team. To-day that photograph is a prized possession amongst the players. And so to the game and the report comes from the Connacht Sentinel of the 26th October.

CITY CLUB, EIGHT MONTHS IN BEING,
WON GALWAY S.F. TITLE
FR. GRIFFINS 2–4 BALLINASLOE 0–6

A new name has been added to the list of Galway Senior Football champions. At Tuam on Sunday, eight months after they had come into existence as a club Fr Griffins defeated Ballinasloe in the final to take possession of the Crean Cup. It was not a great game. A very strong wind blowing across the pitch and, in the second half, torrential rain, went far towards spoiling the play but the tie gripped attention from the moment Mr J.J. Nestor threw in the ball until referee Jimmy Moran blew the whistle that brought the hour to an end.

Territorially, Ballinasloe had a slight pull for most of the hour but their forwards came up against a brilliant defence that warded off their strongest thrusts – and the attacks were particularly strong in the last quarter when Ballinasloe were all out to turn the tide in their favour.

The hero of the Griffins victory was J.J. Walsh who played a great game at right half back but closely running him for honours was Mick Dowling in the right

Mick Sullivan and Paddy O'Brien photographed at the spot in Kilrickle where three young men died on Easter Sunday, 1950. Also in photo Master Patrick Hennelly (K.H.).

Fr. Griffins Medal Presentation 1950. Back row, from left: A.N. Other, Sean Kindillon, Seamus O'Rourke, Dan Corcoran, Dinny Fox, Brod Foy, Jimmy Ward (with Cup), Frank Byrne, Gerry Reidy, Sean Durcan, Jimmy Connolly, John Davy, Willie Walsh. Front row, from left: Paddy Higgins, Tom Feeney, Aidan Corrigan, Michael Murphy, Rev. Fr. P. Killian, Seamus Reidy, John Heaney, Mick Dowling, Bert Lynch, Paddy Corcoran, A. N. Other.

corner of the defence. The latter fielded brilliantly and, like Walsh, kicked lengthy clearances that turned defence into attack many times throughout the hour.

Incidently Guard Dowling has now won a county championship medal with three counties - one in his native Kerry, another in Dublin while playing with the Gardai and his third on Sunday last. Other backs to come in for special mention were Seamus O'Rourke, Seamus Reidy, Mick Collins and Mick Fenton. At centre field Jimmy Ward and Mick Flaherty had a good day and the goal scored by Jimmy Ward from thirty yards out was described as one of the brightest things in the game. Amongst the forwards the most enterprising were Sean Kindillon, Paddy Higgins and Paddy Lawlor.

For Ballinasloe those who tried hardest were Sean Thornton, Shanley, Flaherty and Charlie Connolly.

Griffins led at half time by 1-3 to 0-3. Fr Griffins' scores came from Paddy Lawlor 1-1, Jimmy Ward 1-0, Sean Kindillon 0-2, Martin Kilmartin 0-1. This was the history making lineout -

	Redmond Newell	
Mick Dowling	Seamus O'Rourke	Seamus Reidy
J.J. Walsh	Mick Collins	Mick Fenton
	Jimmy Ward (Capt.) Mick Flaherty	
Paddy Higgins	Sean Kindillon	Austin Roche
Martin Kilmartin	Paddy O'Brien	Paddy Lawlor

This lineout showed one change from the team that beat U.C.G. in the Semi-final, Aidan Corrigan was replaced by Martin Kilmartin as there was a doubt about Aidan's legality. However Aidan won many more medals with Griffins, and an All-Ireland with Cavan in 1952.

After our great victory 25 team members and officials had a meal in the Odeon in Tuam, this meal consisted of ham, salad, lashings of bread and butter and countless pots of scalding hot tea, greatly appreciated on a cold wet late October evening. The cost of this magnificent feast was £5 (the lot). When we break down this figure we have a cost of 20p per head. Those were the days. The cup was filled twice in the Imperial in Tuam, cost of filling £2.36. The late Martin Brennan of Brennans Drapery in Shop Street was at the match to cheer on the team, three of his employees John Davy, Tom Brady and Sonny Molloy were on the panel. Mr. Brennan also filled the cup. On returning to Galway the older members adjourned to the Old Malt House in High Street where

they were warmly received by its host the late Ned Walsh, and once more the cup was filled. Festivities continued until the early hours, a day to remember, a night to remember.

Over the next couple of weeks Gaelic Football was the main topic of conversation in Galway City and the Connacht Sentinel of November 8th 1948 devoted its entire sports page to the Fr. Griffin Club. This tribute is reproduced here in full.

HOW BOYS FROM MANY COUNTIES UNITED TO WIN A COUNTY GALWAY TITLE

Returning to Galway from an inter-county senior football match in which Galway had been engaged, a conversation between Mr. John Cotter a Director of the Connacht Mineral Water company, a former Chairman of the Galway County Football Board and now the Board's Vice-Chairman, and Mr. Jimmy Ward, an employee of Messrs McNamara, Maxwell and Co. Galway, naturally was on football matters. It was natural too, that the conversation should turn on the footballers from other parts of the country who resided in Galway City and the possibility of organising them in a new club. Jimmy Ward knew many such boys, he was one of them himself. That conversation which took place in the fall of last year, might be said to have given birth to the movement that brought Fr. Griffins Football Club into existence. Jimmy Ward later had a chat with Sean Kindillon who had graduated to Galway by way of Westmeath - Jimmy Ward's own county - and who is now on the staff of Messrs T. McDonogh and Sons. These two had more than a nodding acquaintance with each other before either of them knew Galway, their common interest in football drew them together in Westmeath. One of the next to be deep in discussion on the matter was Stephen Lally, former Treasurer of the Galway Co. Board, and, like John Cotter, a man who was associated with Galway Football affairs when the county had the greatest team in the country, and when the Wolfe Tones club, with the organisation and control of which these two were closely associated, had the greatest team in the county.

The matter was discussed with others and eventually when a meeting was called John Davy, a member of the staff of Messrs M. Brennan and Co., was elected

Chairman, and Stephen Lally was elected Vice-Chairman, Sean Kindillon was elected first Secretary, but later handed that office to Mick Lynch, a Clare man and a member of the pharmaceutical profession. Mick Lynch found in Bill Naughton, a Limerick man and a member of the Connacht Tribune linotype staff, a valuable assistant, whose services had been called on at the instigation of Jimmy Ward. Jimmy had made his way to Galway by a roundabout road that took in Limerick, where he worked for a few years and where he won three Limerick championship medals with St Patricks. Bill Naughton had been an active figure in G.A.A. affairs in his native Limerick. He was for some time secretary of the Limerick City Board G.A.A. which he had helped reorganise; he was one of Limerick's busiest referees and the matches he controlled included two Munster Colleges Senior Hurling finals.

Fr. Griffins came into existence in the spring, just in time to affiliate for this year's championship. Young men from the famous football counties outside Galway came along to train with the excellent local material. Some of them like Jimmy Ward, had already won football honours elsewhere. Among them was Guard Mick Dowling, winner of county senior championship medals in Dublin and his native Kerry before coming along to collect a Galway medal with Fr. Griffins. Before Fr. Griffins came into being he had been playing with Oughterard and Annaghdown. Two other guards joined the club; Seamus O'Rourke who is now a well known inter-county figure by reason of his very solid displays with the Galway team, hails from the Galway/Roscommon district of Creggs, and is stationed in Shanaglish made famous by the Egan brothers, the Browne brothers and other champion Irish athletes. The third guard on the team is Seamus Reidy, stationed at Maam Cross. He is a brother of Gerry Reidy who trained the team for the semi-final against U.C.G. and the county final against Ballinasloe, and whose success as a trainer was proved beyond question by both these displays.

The teaching profession is represented by Mick Flaherty, Knock, Spiddal man and Mick Fenton a Kerry man who teaches in Ardrahan and who played with

Erin's Hope, Dublin. Clare is represented on the team by J.J. Walsh of Kilrush, a brilliant defender who rose to great heights in the final. "J.J." is a fellow-employee with Sean Kindillon on the staff of Messrs. T.C. McDonogh, Merchants Road. John Davy, Chairman, Tom Brady, Vice-Captain and Sonny Molloy all work in Messrs M. Brennan's Shop Street. Another employee is Jarlath Fahy, a former minor star who is expected to line out with the club next year. Paddy Lawlor is another Kerry man working in the city, he is employed by Frank McDonagh's Drapery. Paddy showed his initiative by nipping in to score a goal and a point in the final. Mick Collins who, like Mick Flaherty helped Cois Fharraige to win the Galway Junior title a couple of years ago, is, like Stephen Lally, a member of the Postal Service. Martin Kilmartin is a product of St. Mary's College, a grand athlete who won distinction in Connacht Colleges Athletics, also played with Cois Fharraige a couple of years ago. John Cotter who was involved with Cois Fharraige, was also a founder of Wolfe Tones and now the man in chief behind Fr. Griffins. At the celebration after the final one of the speakers spoke of him as "the Daddy of us all", words that show appreciation deeper than any formal words of thanks for his services to the club.

To return to the players, all those mentioned above were natives of other counties with the exception of Seamus O'Rourke, Mick Collins, Mick Flaherty and Martin Kilmartin. Altogether there were eight Galway men on the team. The others are Paddy Higgins, Austin Roche, Redmond Newell and the only city boy of the lot Paddy O'Brien, full forward, who formerly played with Liam Mellowes. The two first named of these four are from the famous football district of Corofin. Paddy Higgins, a member of Bord Na Mona staff, helped Corofin to defeat Ballinasloe in the final of 1946, and now gets his second county medal. Austin Roche distinguished himself as a county minor player before reaching senior status, both he and Paddy O'Brien were on the Galway Minor team beaten by Mayo in the Connacht Final of 1946. Redmond Newell, the custodian, is a Caherlistrane boy employed by Messrs. Mcnamara, Maxwell and Co. America is to take him before long.

The names of all those who played in the county final are mentioned above, but there are others who helped lay the foundations of success. Kerry born Mick Donoghue, now in Donegal is one. He was a Chemist in Greally's when he went out in the club's first match and by scoring two goals against Army, put the team on the road to victory. Aidan Corrigan who works in Blackrock had a great game against U.C.G. in the semi-final. The club had for a time Mick Lyons, an electrician, now in Clonmel. They still have "Pa" Scully of the Galway P.O. clerical staff, who formerly played with Erin's Hope, Galway and Paddy Lydon who is in the insurance business. Another player is Paddy Fitzmaurice, a Ballinlough, Co. Roscommon man, who is employed in McDonogh's, Merchants Road. Of late the club has secured a very good friend in the person of Rev. Fr. Parker, C.C. College House. The Captain Jimmy Ward is also Treasurer of the club. Both he and his good friend Sean Kindillon are now playing on the Galway Senior Team.

In winning the championship in 1948 Fr. Griffins defeated the following teams - Army, Annaghdown, Dunmore Caherlistrane, U.C.G. and Ballinasloe.

In six games Fr. Griffins scored a total of 17 goals, 29 points and conceded 8 goals, 31 points. That would be 80 points to 55 points.

Their hopes for next year is not only to have an exceptionally good Senior Team but, a very able second string as well.

Now at that time when a team won a championship they usually had to wait a few months for their medals, when the medals arrived a club meeting would be called and the medals simply handed over to the winning players. Sometimes a player may have left the district or even emigrated, so it could happen that a player may not ever receive his medal. The officers of the Fr. Griffin Club felt that the winning of a county senior championship was an event of some importance and that there should be a proper presentation ceremony. When the medals for the Fr. Griffins team were handed over to the club a special meeting was called and it was decided to hold a social reunion dinner so that the players, officials and all club members could attend, and indeed the friends and relatives of the winners could also be present and be part of the presentation ceremony.

Jimmy Ward, Fr. Killian and Mick Dowling at a Club Function in 1950.

Fr. Griffin Team 1952. This photograph was probably taken in South Park. It is a Junior side with two players missing. Back row, from left: Frank Smith, Pat Reilly, Sean Durcan, Ambrose Meaney, Paddy Corcoran, Vincent O'Gorman. Front row, from left: Tony O'Donoghue, John Heaney, Tom McCrory, Mick Sullivan, John Fallon, Basil Rainey, Tom Brady.

Today every G.A.A. club in the county, if not in the whole country have an Annual Social to honour and pay tribute to their players. However in 1948 this was something new, indeed it was so unique that the Connacht Sentinel ran a special story on the event. This is something of which we in the Fr. Griffin Club are very proud . The report was written by the late Jack Fitzgerald, Editor of the Tribune newspaper Group and we reproduce it in full.

FATHER GRIFFIN G.A.A. CLUB RE-UNION
THE CHAMPIONS GET THEIR MEDALS

The form of the social meeting at which the members of the Fr. Griffin Senior Football Team received the medals won by them when they took the Galway title a few months ago, was most unusual among G.A.A. clubs, if not altogether unique.

The ceremony took place at the Rockland Hotel, Salthill, on Saturday night after a reunion dinner attended by about sixty people, club officers, players, and wives, sisters or girlfriends. A sing-song and dance followed. Rev. T. Parker, C.C. College House, presided at the dinner and afterwards presented the medals. Rev. Fr. Parker, proposing the toast of Ireland, referred to the contribution made by the G.A.A. to the fight for freedom and said that since the days of Michael Cusack members of the G.A.A. had been in the forefront of every patriotic endeavour. The men who had gone out to fight for freedom had been recruited mainly from the ranks of the G.A.A. He expressed the hope that the unity of the whole nation of thirty-two counties would be achieved before long.

Mr. John Cotter proposed the toast of the Fr. Griffins club and congratulated the players on their unique achievement of capturing the Crean Cup and County Senior Football title eight months after the formation of the club. The Club he said had in it a grand spirit of good-fellowship and sportsmanship, and he hoped that those traits would long live in it.

Mr. Michael Lynch, Club Secretary, proposed the toast of the G.A.A. and referred to the great contribution given by G.A.A. players in every Irish national endeavour. He went on to say that every club had a contribution to make to the association and all that the association meant and they of the Fr. Griffin Club could

make that contribution by keeping alive that spirit of culture, friendliness and uprightness.

Mr. Jimmy Ward Club Captain, proposed the toast of the guests. He referred to the loyalty and enthusiasm of the club supporters and said that the loyalty and enthusiasm had been a source of great encouragement to the team. He thanked all who had patronised the games and all those who had come along to this social meeting. He welcomed in particular Mr. Gerry Reidy and Mr. Bill Naughton. Mr. Naughton responding expressed the hope that the club would endeavour to get young lads into its ranks so that minor and juveniles would be encouraged. Mr. John Davy proposed the toast of the press and Mr. J.F. Fitzgerald, Editor Connacht Tribune, responded. Mr. Naughton who acted as toast-master, and who had come up from Limerick for the function was, incidentally, recently elected Vice-Chairman of the Limerick City Board of the G.A.A.

Rev. Fr. Parker thanked all who had come to support the club, he thanked the hotel management and staff for the excellent catering and service.

Before the dinner party broke up for the song and dance programme in another room songs were sung by Messrs. Sonny Molloy and Stephen Lally.

Having dealt in detail with Fr.Griffins first ever social function I think it would be most appropriate to introduce here a man who has been part and parcel of all club socials for close on forty years. That man is Michael O'Sullivan better known as "Mick" to all his friends. Mick arrived in Galway from his native Kerry in the latter part of 1948 and immediately joined the Fr. Griffin Club. As a young Kerry man he had more than a passing interest in gaelic football and soon found himself on the team. However much of the glory was to evade Mick as a recurring illness kept him sidelined for many of the clubs most important games, but his natural ability and sheer love of the game saw him bounce back to once more regain his place in the team. Mick also sustained a severe shoulder injury playing football but he never lost his love for the game.

Around that time Mick took over the running and organisation of the club's annual social function with great success and has been responsible for all of them ever since. Indeed the club social under Michael O'Sullivan is one of the highlights of the year. Old Fr. Griffin players who visit Galway on holidays always make a point of calling to see

Mick at his place of work where they are sure to get all the latest information on the club and friends of yore.

CHAMPIONS WERE EXEMPLARY ON AND OFF THE FIELD

Connacht Sentinel Report February 1949.

> Had we never won a championship we should have something to be proud of in this which I believe to be unique in the history of the Galway G.A.A. - that the Fr. Griffin Club had gone through the year without a bad report from a referee, no player was the subject of a complaint in a referee's report. A grander bunch of boys never got together in one club, and, on and off the field are always gentlemen.

This is an extract from the report which Mr. Michael Lynch, Secretary of the Fr. Griffin's Football Club, submitted with "a deep sense of pleasure and personal pride" to the first Annual Meeting of the Fr. Griffin Club. The meeting was held in the C.Y.M.S. hall on the day following the first anniversary of the inaugural meeting of the club.

The first meeting of the club was recalled by Mr. Lynch in his report but, he stated, the club had existed for some time previous to that "in the fertile and ever youthful and gaelic heart and brain of the real founder, Mr. Johnny Cotter". Mr. Lynch gives Mr. Cotter the full credit for the existence of the club. His report added "I have no hesitation in saying that the Galway G.A.A. will for ever be grateful to Mr. Cotter for having brought this club into being. Though his life is packed with personal achievements and organisation, had he never done any other thing for the G.A.A. except this one act, his name will always be enshrined in the annals of gaeldom for this alone". Mr. Lynch's report went on to deal with the enthusiastic and loyal co-operation which had helped to launch the club, and touching on the financial side of the club's affairs, he congratulated Mr. Jimmy Ward, Hon. Treasurer, and the committee on the fact that the club now had cash on hands and no debts. Mr. Lynch reviewed the progress of the team through the senior football championship - their first practice game, their victory over An Cath Gaelach in the first round of the championship, a victory achieved by individual brilliance, the development of the team into a well-knit unit that with "the qualities of co-operation, understanding, unselfishness and loyalty, became invincible", the victory which the team, trained by Messrs. Gerry Reidy and Mick Dowling, gained over the fancied star-studded side from U.C.G. and "the masterly display" that won them the final and Crean Cup.

The report went on to refer to the election of Rev. T. Parker to the club committee and said that Fr. Parker's influence for good on the club could not be surpassed. The report paid tribute to the work of Mr. W. Naughton for the club, to the supporters, especially the Liam Mellowes club "who were right behind us all during the campaign", and to the press, particularly the "Connacht Tribune" for its support.

The following officers were unanimously elected –

Hon. Presidents:	Rev. T. Parker, Mr. John Cotter
Vice-President:	Sergeant M. Walsh
Chairman:	Mr. John Davy
Vice-Chairman:	Mr. Stephen Lally
Secretary:	Mr. Mick Lynch
Treasurer:	Mr. Jimmy Ward
Assistant Secretary and delegate to board meetings:	Mr. Paddy Higgins
Captain:	Jimmy Ward
Vice-Captain:	Mick Collins

Note: Assistant Secretary Mr. Paddy Higgins who first took office in the Spring of 1949 has been either Secretary or Treasurer for all of the club's life. A truly remarkable record.

Thanks for the memories, and all my best wishes to Fr. Griffins and continued success in the future.

Christy Cunningham

CHAPTER 2

Triumphs and Tragedy

Fr. Griffin's first game in 1949 was in the West Board Championship against U.C.G. At that time we had only two competitions, the County Senior Championship and the West Board Championship, the County Senior League did not come into being until 1951. At that time also there were no club P.R.O.'s so very many games in the early rounds of a competition received no coverage in the newspapers, and so it was with this West Board Game against U.C.G. We do know that this game took place in late February in Fahy's Field in very muddy conditions, and U.C.G. who had won the Sigerson Cup since our last meeting were all out to redeem themselves, and they did just that in style, winning very easily in the end.

Fr. Griffins showed several changes from the side that won the championship, gone were Redmond Newell who had emigrated to America, Paddy Lawlor had left for Australia, Austin Roche went to Dublin, Martin Kilmartin had returned to Micheal Breathnach's and later in the year iron man Mick Collins took the boat to England. It wasn't all one way traffic however as into the side came Jarlath Fahy a really great footballer, Mossy Holly a young Cork lad, a great footballer and even a better hurler who hurled with our sister club Liam Mellowes, and as previously mentioned Mick O'Sullivan returned to the game. Two other men joined the club Paddy Corcoran from Terryland and Dudley Flaherty from Claddagh. Paddy Corcoran was a brother-in-law of the well known journalist the late Johnny McMahon. Both Corcoran and Flaherty were well known soccer players, they were goalkeepers as well as outfield players. Fr. Parker also played whenever circumstances would allow, at that time the Bishops frowned on priests participating in games and our own Bishop Browne was no exception. In the County Championship we were drawn against Ballinasloe and the game was fixed for the 8th May. We travelled by bus to this fixture on a lovely sunny day, we won this game fairly easily but we have failed to find a report in the newspapers. In the next round we were drawn against Tuam and this game was to take place in June, however it did not and was refixed for the 3rd July. Once more it was put back and finally played on the 14th August in the Sportsground. Fr. Griffins won this tie, but only just, and were not very impressive. We reproduce a report of the game taken from the Connacht Tribune dated 20th August.

FR. GRIFFINS HARD PRESSED IN VICTORY OVER TUAM
FR. GRIFFINS 4–7 TUAM 5–3

Fr. Griffins County Champions, gave a very disappointing display when defeating Tuam by the narrowest of margins in their Crean Cup football game at Galway Sportsground on Sunday. Indeed for most of the game they were playing second fiddle to a grand fast Tuam side, which, however, showed some weakness in defence, especially in the second half, when the champions piled on the pressure in a last all-out effort. The fact that Fr. Griffins wiped out an eight points deficit during this period makes this weakness very apparent.

Fr. Griffins were but a skeleton of the side which brought them victory last year and apart from a few individual performances the side lacked fire and dash. Their defence was often caught on the wrong foot and their marking was deplorable, O'Rourke alone keeping a cool head. Mick Collins was a notable absentee.

The report goes on to state that at centrefield Aidan Corrigan played a lone hand, and indeed was one of the outstanding players on view. He relieved his backs time and time again, and his lengthy kicking was a constant source of worry to the harassed Tuam defence. Of the forwards who shot wide on several occasions when well placed, Jarlath Fahy at left half forward and Paddy Higgins on the other flank were the hardest workers. Paddy O'Brien also played a good bustling game at full forward. Tuam had the aid of the breeze in the first half and led at half time by 5–1 to 2–2.

In the second half Sean Kindillon started the Griffins revival with a point followed immediately by a great goal from Paddy Higgins and a point from a free by Gerry Reidy. Full forward Paddy O'Brien then scored a goal but the whistle had gone for a foul on O'Brien. From the resultant penalty, taken by Kindillon, the goalkeeper saved but failed to hold the ball, however, rushing in O'Brien crashed it to the net. As Tuam mounted several attacks Aidan Corrigan went to centre half back and stemmed the tide. When the final whistle sounded Fr. Griffins had just survived but the players and selectors were not happy with the overall performance. Fr. Griffins scores came from – Paddy Higgins 2–1, Paddy O'Brien 1–0, Tom Brady 1–0, Sean Kindillon 0–2, Jarlath Fahy 0–2, Jimmy Ward 0–1 and Gerry Reidy 0–1.

Fr. Griffins had now qualified for the county semi-final against St. Brendans and this game was fixed for Tuam on the 2nd October. St. Brendans, a new club, was an amalgamation of Annaghdown and Caherlistrane and they made no secret that they hoped to dethrone the champions, and this they nearly did, as we can see from the report of the game published in the Connacht Tribune at that time.

GALWAY SENIOR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS NEARLY MET DEFEAT
FR. GRIFFINS 1–6 ST. BRENDANS 2–3

The Galway Senior Football Champions, Fr. Griffins, nearly came to grief at Tuam on Sunday when they were held to a draw by St. Brendans. When Joe Duggan, taking a pass from a free, crashed the ball to the Griffin's crossbar and saw it boxed to the net to give St. Brendan's a lead for the first time – and this as the game was drawing to an end – Fr. Griffins were in real danger. It was Sean Kindillon who kicked over the last point that gave Griffins a chance to play again and he was unlucky in not getting a winning point from a well-placed free just before the final whistle. After a poor first half Fr. Griffins led at the interval by 1–3 to 0–1. The second half was much better but at times became over robust. St. Brendans contributed to their own misfortune by faulty shooting on the part of their forwards.

Outstanding for Fr. Griffins were Seamus O'Rourke, Paddy Higgins, Sean Kindillon and Jarlath Fahy. St. Brendans were best served by Joe Duggan, Joe Keville, Gannon, Hoade and Monaghan.

After this narrow escape Fr. Griffins got down to serious training and returned once more to the Commercial for their nightly keep fit exercises. The replay took place on the 16th October.

FR. GRIFFINS 2–3 ST. BRENDANS 1–2

The Fr. Griffins, St. Brendans semi-final replay followed in many respects the pattern of the drawn game. St. Brendans had as much if not more of the play as the champions but their forwards missed badly. They had hard luck on one occasion when one of their backs accidentally goaled. The deciding factor in the game was probably the strengthening of the Fr. Griffins team

Pictured during a training session in the "Swamp" in 1952 are Seamus Gorman, John Lohan, Tom Keaveny, John Melody and Tom Higgins.

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by bringing on O'Rourke and Dowling. Usual full forward O'Brien was an absentee.

From start to finish the game was closely contested and fast. Griffins did have the edge in the first quarter when Kindillon and Boyce exchanged points, but a kick for goal by Aidan Corrigan saw the ball go into the net off a defender. One of Griffins best players was Jarlath Fahy and one of his efforts was rewarded when his shot was finished for a goal, to leave the interval scores Fr. Griffins 2–1, St. Brendans 0–1. St. Brendans rallied strongly in the second half and after faulty forward finishing Kelly kicked a well merited goal on receiving from Flanagan. When Joe Duggan shot low from a twenty yards free it looked as through the champions were going to fade out. But the Griffins goalie however was not beaten as he tipped it over the bar. St. Brendans began to concede frees and were punished by Sean Kindillon who scored two points from placed balls.

When the final whistle sounded Fr. Griffins were through to contest their second final but this was a final which never took place and this is the reason why.

Both semi–finals took place on the same date and while Griffins were defeating St. Brendan's, U.C.G. were disposing of Ballinasloe. All was ready then for the final between Griffins and U.C.G. and the game was fixed by the football board for the 30th October. Then U.C.G. announced that they were not prepared to play on that date and requested the football board to put the final back until the 13th November. The football board turned down this request and insisted that the game be played on the date fixed. U.C.G. still refused and the board were not prepared to give in on this issue. It was a confrontation between U.C.G. and the football board and it did not concern the Fr. Griffin Club who were then awarded the title. Some letters were written to the local newspapers by officials in the U.C.G. club and statements were issued by the football board, but at no time did Fr. Griffins get involved. The reason U.C.G. would not play on the 30th October was that the Sigerson competition was being held one week later on the 5th and 6th November. The football board held the view that the Sigerson competition should not interfere with the Galway Senior Football Championship which was running late and playing the final in mid–November was unacceptable. Retaining our title in such a manner was not how the club would have wished it, but this has happened before and since.

We understand the following clubs were credited with Galway Senior Football Titles –

1889 – Dunmore, received a walk–over
1892 – Tuam Stars, walk over Caherlistrane
1893 – Tuam Stars, awarded
1895 – Tuam Stars, walk over Dunmore
1897 – Loughrea, awarded over team who were late
1908 – Tuam Stars, awarded over Ballinasloe
1910 – Dunmore, objection against Ballinasloe
1943 – Tuam Stars, awarded over U.C.G.
1949 – Fr. Griffins, walk over U.C.G.
1959 – Tuam Stars, walk over Annaghdown.

The Tuam Herald reports on the 7th January 1950 that at the A.G.M. of the football board it was announced that the board showed a loss of £262–15–6 for 1949. This loss was attributed to the failure of U.C.G. to play the county final on the date fixed, it was also announced that the board had written to the clubs in September informing them of the semi–final and final dates, however letters were still being written to the newspapers on this unfortunate episode.

1950 was also The Holy Year, when Catholics worldwide celebrated this great event, but it was also the year that brought great tragedy to the Fr. Griffin Club, a tragedy that a lesser club might not have survived. As Galway County Champions Fr. Griffins had been invited to take part in a football tournament with the champions of Offaly and Westmeath and always eager for a game Griffins were only too willing to oblige. This ill–fated tournament took place near Athlone on Easter Sunday the 9th April. Returning home that evening a car carrying a number of the Fr. Griffin players was in collision with a lorry at a dangerous bend near Kilrickle, Loughrea. Three young men died in this horrific crash, a crash that stunned the whole county, particularly the G.A.A.

It is with a deep sense of sadness for our departed friends and comrades that we reproduce a report of the accident as it appeared in the Connacht Sentinel.

THREE DEAD, SEVEN INJURED IN ROAD CRASH COLLISION BETWEEN LORRY AND DODGE NEAR KILRICKLE

Three young men were killed and seven others were removed to Galway Central Hospital as a result of a collision between a seven-seater Dodge car and a Bedford lorry on a bend of the road at Dartfield, between Loughrea and Kilrickle, County Galway, at 10.10 O'clock on Sunday night. The Dodge, owned by Mr. Michael O'Flaherty, Dominick Street, Galway, was bringing back to Galway some members of the Father Griffin's Senior Football team who, as holders of the County Galway Senior Football Championship, had played that evening in a tournament with the County Champions of Offaly and Westmeath at Castledaly, a few miles outside Athlone. The lorry, owned by Mr. Michael F. Gibbons, Victoria Street, Galway, was travelling from Galway to Kilrickle.

The Dead: William Glynn, aged about 30, a native of Cahernaculick, Shrule, Co. Mayo, driver of the Dodge; John Joe Walsh, aged about 25, a native of Breen Street, Kilrush, County Clare and Michael Monahan, aged about 27 a native of Altamount Street, Westport, Co. Mayo.

The Injured: Aidan Corrigan, aged 21, a native of Milltown, Belturbet, Co. Cavan; Jarlath Fahy, aged 20, Dunmore, Co. Galway; Brod Foy, aged 19, San Antonio Tce., Salthill, Galway; James Connolly, Brownsgrove, Tuam, Co. Galway; Patrick Flaherty, a native of Aran; William Walsh, Old Malt House, Galway; Patrick Corcoran, Terryland, Galway.

With the exception of Michael Monahan and Patrick Flaherty, who were on the lorry, the other dead and injured were in the Dodge. John Joe Walsh, who was seated behind the driver of the Dodge was employed in the Hardware Department of the firm of T. McDonogh and Sons, Galway. He was a clever footballer and helped Galway in their recent National Football League tie against Kerry, playing in the first half in the left corner forward position, and later in the defence position to which he was accustomed. He also took part in the annual pantomimes of the Columban Hall Entertainment Committee. Billy Glynn, the driver of

the car was one of the most loyal and likeable members of the Fr. Griffins Club. Aidan Corrigan, an employee of the Blackrock Tailoring Co., in Galway is also a prominent footballer and helped Galway in their recent N.F.L. tie against Kerry, playing in the centre half forward position. He is suffering from a severe head wound.

Jarlath Fahy was one of Galway's outstanding Minors and Juniors of 1948 and his display in the Connacht Championship of both grades of that year played a big part in bringing the teams into both All-Ireland semi-finals. He has also played some games with the senior team. He sustained a broken shoulder and some chest injuries but it is expected that both he and Corrigan will recover. The others are less seriously injured.

Note: We are pleased to state that all of the injured made a quick and complete recovery and in the case of Aidan Corrigan he was back playing football before the end of June. A truly remarkable man.

FOOTBALL BOARD'S TRIBUTE TO THE LATE J.J. WALSH TUAM HERALD 29TH APRIL

Tributes to the late John Joe Walsh of Kilrush, a member of the Galway County Football Team, who was killed in the motor accident near Loughrea on Easter Sunday, were paid by the County Football Board at their meeting in Tuam on Thursday evening last.

Mr. Jimmy Moran, Chairman of the Board, proposing a vote of sympathy to the parents and relatives of the deceased, said that his death was a great loss to the G.A.A. in his adopted county. He was a fine footballer, and a loyal companion to his teammates, and all who knew him had the deepest sympathy for the parents of a young man to whom death had come so tragically in the prime of life and athletic vigour.

Mr. John Dunne, Secretary, seconding the resolution said that John Joe Walsh had proved himself one of their promising young footballers. He had won two Senior County Championships with Father Griffins club, and had played a fine game against Kerry in the League. His tragic death was unexpected and very deeply regretted. The Board also passed a vote of sympathy to

the relatives of the other victims of the accident Mr. William Glynn, Shrule and Mr. Michael Monahan, Westport.

After this devastating blow to the Fr. Griffin's Club, there were some who thought the club might disband, or at least withdraw from football for a year. However at a club meeting it was decided as a tribute to their dead and injured comrades, to continue in football, as it was felt that that is what they would have wished. So we find Fr. Griffin's once more taking the field in defence of their title against old rivals Ballinasloe on Sunday the 14th May, just five weeks after the terrible accident. This certainly showed the strength and character of the Fr. Griffin Club.

DRAW IN COUNTRY GALWAY SENIOR FOOTBALL TIE
FR. GRIFFINS 0–5 BALLINASLOE 1–2

Although Fr. Griffins, holders of the Galway Senior Football Championship for the past two seasons, were held to a draw by Ballinasloe, at Duggan Park, Ballinasloe, on Sunday, they proved that they were the better team as far as football was concerned, but they lacked level-headedness in forward play, and spectators were treated to the spectacle of forwards bunching on the ball and spoiling each other's play. Furthermore after the first fifteen minutes of pleasant football, the game fell away into a series of frees.

Ballinasloe, with the wind and sun advantage, opened well and in the second kick of the game Ignatius Hanniffy struck the Griffin's upright from a fifty. At the end of the first quarter Ballinasloe, with a goal and a point from P Dooley were worrying their unimpressive opponents. Inky Flaherty added another point from a 21 yards free, before Griffins opened their account. The score at half time was Ballinasloe 1–2 Fr. Griffins 0–1.

The second half was the period in which Griffins showed their forward weakness very clearly. With one point to their credit on the turn over, they added four more in the second period in which ever so many good chances were thrown away. Griffins scores came from Gerry Reidy 0–2, Paddy Higgins 0–1, Sean Kindillon

Fr. Griffin Senior Team 1960. Back row, from left: Jimmy Ward, Martin Crowley, Peter O'Shea, Dinny O'Shea, Joe Lowney, Seamus Doyle, Pat Kelleher, Kevin Swords, Tom Higgins, Joe Young. Front row, from left: Andrew Cullinane, Eamonn Kehoe, Noel McGinn, Kevin Sexton, Pat Neary, Paddy Dunne, Joe Casey.

0-1, B. Courtney 0-1. Ballinasloe were best served by I. Hanniffy, Inky Flaherty, Pat McDonagh and Larkin.

Before the game two minutes silence was observed in memory of those who lost their lives in the tragic accident recently, at Kilrickle, Loughrea.

The replay took place in the Sportsground, Galway on the 18th June.

FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS IN RUNNING FOR THIRD TITLE
FR. GRIFFINS 8-3 BALLINASLOE 2-3

It was near half time before Fr.Griffins, the County Champions got a firm grip on their replay game against Ballinasloe in the Galway Senior Football Championship at Galway Sportsground on Sunday. A greasy ball and a greasy sod made good football impossible but the position was made worse by the fact that although it was a sporting display more vigour than was necessary was introduced.

The Ballinasloe team had weaknesses in both defence and attack but the first quarter had passed before Fr. Griffins began to exploit the defects of the Ballinasloe defence, and not until after the interval did they play the type of football that could pay best dividends. There was more booting of the ball by Fr.Griffins in the second half, and they opened the play to the wings to exploit the speed of their two flanks of the attack.

Paddy Higgins was the champion's outstanding forward in the first half, best support coming from Sean Kindillon, but the real stars of the Griffin's forward effort were the corner forwards, Dinny Fox and Tom Higgins, who got opportunities in the second half to show their worth. Joe Keville and Aidan Corrigan also got in some nice help. Gerry Reidy gave Griffins a pull at centrefield, while his brother Seamus played an excellent game in defence in the second half.

Fr. Griffins led at half time by 4-1 to 1-2 and when the final whistle sounded Fr. Griffins had won easily. Full time score - Fr. Griffins 8-3 Ballinasloe 2-3. The players credited with Fr. Griffins scores were Tom Higgins 3-1, Dinny Fox 2-1, Paddy Higgins 1-1, Sean Kindillon 1-0, and a goal from a melee.

There were a number of changes that took place in the Fr. Griffin Club in 1950. The old colours Saffron and Gold were replaced by the Maroon and White, and also there were many changes in personnel. The club lost Paddy O'Brien who went to London and the tragic accident claimed the life of one of our greatest ever footballers J.J. Walsh. Out also as a result of the crash was star forward Jarlath Fahy. However many really great footballers arrived on the scene, men like Joe Keville, Tom Higgins, Dinny Fox, Mick Muldoon, B. Courtney, Mick Ward, Frank Beirne and S. Durkan.

Two of that particular group played with Griffins until the end of the decade; they were Joe Keville and Tom Higgins. Joe Keville played with St. Brendan's in 1949, arriving in Galway in 1950 he immediately joined Fr. Griffins. To-day he and his wife Bernie are proprietors of the Western Hotel, Prospect Hill, where the monthly meetings of the Fr. Griffins Club are held. Joe was a stylish footballer with a wonderful catch and regularly played at centrefield. Tom Higgins who made his debut against Ballinasloe in the replay was an outstanding success, scoring three goals and a point in that game. Tom usually played in the half back line, but being the complete footballer he could play anywhere, he captained the Galway Junior Team that won the Connacht Championship in 1954. He also played with the Senior Team as did Joe Keville.

Fr. Griffins were once more in the County Semi-final, this time against Oughterard and the game was fixed for the 9th July in the Sportsground. The following report once more is taken from the Connacht Tribune.

GRIFFINS AND OUGHTERARD TO TRY AGAIN
FR. GRIFFINS 0–4 OUGHTERARD 1–1

The semi-final of the County Senior Football Championship played in Galway Sportsground on Sunday ended in a draw. Oughterard were lucky as Fr. Griffins looked easy winners with a three points lead up to the closing stages, but a free by M. Keogh dropped against the breeze and bounced off the goalie's knuckles to the back of the net.

As a result of a skirmish early in the first half when three players were sent off, Griffins had to play with 13 men and Oughterard with 14. The game throughout was packed with excitement and the replay should attract a record attendance. Fr. Griffin's Sean Kindillon was outstanding, his accurate place-kicking resulted in three of their four points, the other point coming from Paddy

Higgins. Oughterard failed to score in the first half. Playing with the breeze in the second half Oughterard had a point from M. Keogh and near the end that lucky goal that earned them a draw. Mick Muldoon, Mick Dowling and Seamus O'Rourke were very sound in defence, while other Fr. Griffin players to shine were Jimmy Ward, Paddy Higgins, Sean Kindillon and Gerry Reidy. The Fr. Griffins team was –

	John Davy	
Mick Muldoon	Mick Dowling	Seamus O'Rourke
Jimmy Ward	Seamus Reidy	Tom Higgins
	Gerry Reidy Brendan Courtney	
Sean Kindillon	Aidan Corrigan	Paddy Higgins
Mick Ward	Dinny Fox	Joe Keville

The replay took place in Tuam on the 20th August, and will forever be remembered as the gambling semi-final. It was common knowledge that large sums of money were bet on the outcome, so it was not surprising that there was a certain amount of "needle" in the game. It was a game that Fr. Griffins lost, yet won, and this is how that happened.

FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS TOPPLE AT TUAM
OUGHTERARD 1–4 FR. GRIFFINS 0–6

In a Galway Senior Football semi-final in which scores were level five times, Fr. Griffins were defeated by one point at Tuam on Sunday.

There was very little between the two teams but a centrefield pull by Fr. Griffins promised victory early in the game. Brendan Courtney held Tom Sullivan well for the hour and at half-time scores were level

Oughterard 1–1 Fr. Griffins 0–4.

It was a fast game but poor forward finishing on both sides kept the scores down. Mick Dowling, Fr. Griffins full-back had an excellent game, and his many fine clearances saved Griffins from a bigger defeat. Others to play well were Jimmy Ward, Tom Higgins and Seamus Reidy in defence, Joe Keville and Brendan Courtney at centrefield while Aidan Corrigan, Gerry Reidy and Dinny Fox were outstanding in the forward line.

Fr. Griffin's Football Committee, mid sixties. Back row, from left: Con Cunnane, Tom Higgins, Gabriel Nicholson, Frank Heaney, Liam Sammon, Mick Sullivan, Colie McDonagh. Front row: William Tyrrell, Paddy Higgins, Jim Kilroy, T. J. Tyrrell.

The winners scores came from Diamond 1-0, Tom Sullivan 0-3 and Ned Keogh 0-1. Griffins replied per Sean Kindillon 0-3 and Aidan Corrigan 0-3.
Note: While Brendan Courtney kept a tight rein on Tom Sullivan it was Sullivan's accuracy from long distance frees that won the game for Oughterard. Indeed he got all of his teams scores in the second half.

FR. GRIFFINS WIN OBJECTION AGAINST OUGHTERARD REPORT TAKEN FROM TUAM HERALD 9TH SEPTEMBER 1950

An objection brought by Fr. Griffins against Oughterard who beat them in the county senior football championship semi-final replay was heard at a special meeting of the County Football Board in Tuam on Tuesday night last, Mr. Jim Moran, Chairman, presiding.

The objection was brought on the grounds that Oughterard played two illegal players in their match with Fr. Griffins at the Tuam Stadium on Sunday August 20th when Oughterard won on the score 1-4 to 0-6.

Mr. Moran read the 14 point objection which was written in Irish from the secretary of the Fr. Griffins Club which stated that the Oughterard players were illegal to play on the grounds that one of them, Tom Sullivan, had played for Westerns (Dublin) in the 1950 championship, and that the second member of the team Eugene Kyne, whose name did not appear on the list of players handed to the referee, also played for a Dublin club in the 1949/50 football league.

Mr. Tom Walsh, Fr. Griffins, handed a report to the Chairman which stated that Tom Sullivan was a registered member of the Westerns Club in Dublin and played with them in the 1950 championship. The objection that he was not a registered member of Oughterard was withdrawn. Another point in the objection, that Eugene Kyne's name did not appear on the list of players handed to the referee before the match, rendered the Oughterard team liable to loss of the game.

On a further point it was stated that this player was also registered with the Dublin Civil Service Club and

was therefore illegal to play for Oughterard. After a lengthy discussion on the pros and cons of the objection, the Chairman ruled that according to the rules both players were automatically suspended for three months and that the game be awarded to the Fr. Griffins Team. During the discussion Mr. Dinny Sullivan Oughterard said that Oughterard would withdraw from all further competitions in the county.

Present at the meeting were –
J. Dunne and J. Geraghty, Ballinasloe; J. Callinan, J. Mooney and P. Burke, Tuam; D. Sullivan, E. Kehoe and P. Gibbons, Oughterard; J. Cotter, J. Ward, T. Walsh, A. Corrigan and P. Higgins all from Fr. Griffins.

So Fr. Griffins found themselves once more in the county final. However, before I deal with that game I wish to make an observation. Every sport has their own set of rules, and these rules are there to ensure that all taking part in that particular sport are treated fairly, and that no one is given an unfair advantage over another. However, there are still some misguided people who feel that a game should be won on the pitch and not in the boardroom. If that is the case, why then have set rules? Why not let every team make their own rules, to suit themselves on any given occasion. If that was to happen sport would soon come to an end. Father Griffins were not happy about objecting to Oughterard but the Club Officers could not overlook the fact that rules were broken. If I may refer you back to 1948, one of Griffins up and coming stars Aidan Corrigan had a great game in the semi-final against U.C.G. yet our club officials would not play him in the final as they felt there was a doubt about his legality and were not prepared to break the rules. It was a hard blow on Aidan, but full credit to the men who took this decision, unpleasant though it was.

And so we come to the final of 1950 and once more we found ourselves facing Ballinasloe. The final took place in the new Tuam Stadium on the 17th September and was preceded by the County Hurling Semi-Final between Castlegar and Ballinasloe.

FR. GRIFFINS WIN THIRD COUNTY TITLE
CASTLEGAR REACH S.H. FINAL
FR. GRIFFINS 4-8 BALLINASLOE 2-3
CASTLEGAR 6-3 BALLINASLOE 0-1

Bad weather and a high wind greatly hindered good play at Tuam on Sunday where Fr. Griffins had a convincing win over Ballinasloe to retain the county

senior football championship for the third year in succession and Castlegar had a facile win over Ballinasloe in the county senior hurling semi-final. Castlegar now meet Gort in the final. The games did not reach a high standard and the hurling especially was disappointing as it proved a very one-sided affair. The crowd of 2,000 people attending had nothing to enthuse about at any stage of the two games.

Fr. Griffins made a great start when they had two goals and a point scored within ten minutes and before Ballinasloe replied with a point off a free. Then came a grand goal for Ballinasloe scored by Shanley off a free kicked about thirty-five yards out. Griffins came back for a goal by Connolly and they also got a point but Shanley replied with another point before the break. At half time the score was Fr. Griffins 3-2 Ballinasloe 1-2. In the second half the Griffins backs came into their own, especially Jimmy Ward and Seamus O'Rourke who gave one of his best displays for a long time, and certainly did much to save the day for Fr. Griffins as he broke up many attacks and one of his lengthy clearances was finished to the net for a goal by Sean Kindillon.

According to this report from the Connacht Tribune eight of the Griffins team got their names on the scoring list. I give it as it appeared but the tally is not correct, I feel that some who scored goals were credited with points.
Sean Kindillon 1-2, J. Connolly 1-2, Aidan Corrigan 0-2, Mick Fenton 0-1, Brendan Courtney 0-1, Dinny Fox 0-1, Jimmy Ward 0-1, Joe Keville 0-1.

Fr. Griffins had won their third title in a row, a truly remarkable achievement by a new club. This was never done before or since by any Galway City Club. The players did celebrate this great victory and rightly so, but the celebrations were tinged with sadness as our thoughts went back to the awful night in April, when we lost some of our wonderful comrades in Kilrickle.

Fr. Griffin's West Board Champions 1964. Back row, from left: Ray Niland, Jim McMahon, Eddy Dunne, Joe Lynam, Paddy Sweeney, Michael Hernon, Con Cunnane, Kieran O'Connor. Front row: Billy Riordan, Nicky Murray, Jackie O'Connell, Frank Heaney (Capt.), Frank O'Connor, Colie O'Malley, Liam Sammon. Missing from this photograph are Dinny O'Shea, Colie McDonagh, Rae Gilmore, Tansy Lyons and P. Logan.

CHAPTER 3

The Best of Times, The Worst of Times

They say that after the feast comes the famine and so it was with Fr. Griffins in 1951. After three bountiful years the team seemed tired and jaded and had lost their appetite for football. Considering that the team came back after that awful car crash in 1950 to scale new heights now one year later we were plunging to an all time low. It did not help the team to lose a founder member and one of our greatest ever footballers, the great Sean Kindillon. Sean got married about that time and returned to his native Westmeath to set up in business in Moate. His was a tremendous loss to the club.

The championship was probably played on the knockout system that year, and our first and only game was against Annaghdown in Tuam Stadium in early July. The papers carried a very small report of the game, however we do learn that Annaghdown won on a score of 0–7 to 1–2 for Fr. Griffins. The game was described as very disappointing with a low standard of football and Griffins were bustled off their game by a heavier Annaghdown side. At half time Fr. Griffins were ahead by 1–2 to 0–3. Griffins failed to score in the second half while Annaghdown tacked on four points. Fr. Griffins scores came from Dinny Fox 1–1 and Aidan Corrigan 0–1. Others to impress for Griffins were Seamus Reidy and Jimmy Ward while Annaghdown had good players in the Burke Brothers, Gowley and Fury.

Fr. Griffins fared no better in the league and West Board championship and indeed we failed to find any reports on these games.

Our junior side was beaten in the West Board Semi-Final by Micheal Breathnachs who won by 2–4 to 1–2. This game was played in the Sportsground and was described by the Connacht Tribune as "of poor quality". Breathnach's had the game more or less sewn up when Griffins led by only one point after playing with a strong wind in the first half. Best for Griffins were Egan, Reaney, Durcan and Dunne in the backs. Meaney and Hoade did well at centrefield, while in the forward line Tom Keaveny, Mick Sullivan and Eamon McInerney tried hardest. This was the team on duty –

	J. Fallon	
S. Kenny	T. Egan	J. Reaney
D. Corcoran	J. Durcan	J. Dunne
	A. Meaney Tony Hoade	
Tom Keaveny	John Heaney	T. McCrory
Eamon McInerney	N. Jennings	M O'Sullivan

Note: Three of the above team, Tony Hoade, Tom Keaveny and Noel Jennings figured on the Griffins senior team that created one of the biggest upsets in football when they had a run-away win over a star studded Tuam side in the 1953 senior football championship. Tony Hoade is now a Parish Priest in New South Wales, Australia, while Eamon McInerney is the P.P. in Moycullen. Fr. McInerney was born in Eyre Square and attended the Old Monastery School in Lombard Street and Saint Mary's College where he played football with distinction.

The most notable thing about 1952 was the arrival in the club of a couple of star footballers, namely Nace O'Dowd from Sligo and Dan McCaffrey from Tyrone. However even with their presence we failed to win back the championship or make any headway in the league. Early in the year we had a runaway win over local side Erin's Hope in the West Board played in Fahy's field, but we have failed to find any report of this game in the papers. In the first round of the league we had a good win over old rivals Annaghdown winning by 2-8 to 1-1. Griffins who had the breeze in the first half led at half-time by seven points and were best served by Seamus O'Rourke, Jimmy Ward, Nace O'Dowd, Aidan Corrigan, Dan McCaffrey and Paddy O'Brien.

In our next game in the league we came up against U.C.G., a very good side, who disposed of what the papers described as "a very poorly balanced Fr. Griffins Team". The opening twenty minutes produced first class football with Griffins more than holding their own but then the referee sent two players to the line. One of the players was Nace O'Dowd from Griffins and his opposite number from U.C.G. The loss of Nace affected the Fr. Griffins side who simply fell away. There was no stopping U.C.G. who ran out the easiest of winners. Final score UCG 3-8 Fr. Griffins 0-3. Best for Griffins were Jimmy Ward, Seamus Reidy, Joe Keville and Dan McCaffrey. Incidentally U.C.G. were beaten in the League Final by Tuam on a score of 1-7 to 0-8.

And so the championship and our first game was against Ballinasloe played in early June in Mountbellew and on this occasion Ballinasloe came out on top winning by 2-5 to 1-5. Despite extensive research we have failed to find a report on the game only the final score. However from memory, which can be faulty with the passage of time, Griffins had enough of the play to win but some of the forwards did not take their chances. On a brighter note, one of our best and most popular players, Aidan Corrigan, was to achieve every footballer's dream by winning an All-Ireland Senior Football medal with his native Cavan who beat Meath in a replay. Aidan who survived that horrific car crash at Kilrickle in 1950 was the first member of the Fr. Griffin Club to win the ultimate prize.

Sadly Nace O'Dowd who spent some years in America returned to his native Sligo and died there over a year ago.

Dan McCaffrey who returned to League of Ireland soccer with Drumcondra was leading scorer in the League and voted Footballer of the Year. Dan is now a very successful business man and racehorse owner in his native Omagh, Co. Tyrone.

There are many who feel that 1953 was one of Fr. Griffins best years, while that may be carrying things too far, it was by any stretch of the imagination a year in which Fr. Griffins turned in some wonderful displays. It was a year in which many of the younger players came of age, and in true manly fashion showed the football potential that was there. It was a year that lady luck did not shine too kindly on the Fr. Griffin team. Injuries to key players prevented Griffins from perhaps winning all the competitions they were involved in. They did however win the League, were beaten in the West Board Final, and the Semi-Final of the championship. But in the process they gave one of the greatest displays of football in that year's championship, and decisively beat the best team in the county and one of the best teams in the whole country.

Starting the year it was felt that some of the older players, men who had given sterling service to the club since 1948, were beginning to slow down a little. So it was decided to introduce some new players in the early stages of the league and in the West Board. Griffins were not very impressive in some of these games but the selectors persevered with the youth policy and it certainly paid off later in the year.

In our first league match we played Corofin in Currandulla in early April. Fr. Griffins were beaten in this game by a goal, the score being Corofin 1-4 Fr. Griffins 0-4. There was only a small report in the newspapers and we are informed that the game was not up to standard. The report also states that lack of practice told against Griffins, who were slow to settle. Towards the end the forwards threw away many good scoring chances. The Corofin scores came from J. Nolan 1-1 and Liam Mannion 0-3. Fr. Griffins replied per Aidan Corrigan 0-2, Paddy O'Brien 0-1 and Jimmy Ward 0-1. Others to play well for Griffins were Tom Higgins, Seamus Gorman, Joe Keville, Dinny Fox and Jim Kearns.

Fr. Griffins' next outing was against Oughterard in the West Board Championship. This game was played in Oughterard and Griffins played very well to win by 0-6 to 1-1. Again there was only a small report in the local papers and we are informed that after a very keen, close tussle, Fr. Griffins came out on top. High fielding and long kicking was the order of the day and all through football of a high standard was served up by both sides. Fr. Griffins led by five points to

nil at half time. In the second half Oughterard put up a great fight but Griffins finished the stronger side. Outstanding for the winners were Ambrose Meaney, Jimmy Ward, Joe Keville and Paddy O'Brien. The next game was against U.C.G., in the league, and this game took place mid-week in early May. We failed to find a report of the game which Griffins may have won, U.C.G. failed to qualify for the final stages, while Fr. Griffins won out. A couple of weeks later Fr. Griffins were in action again, this time against Army in the West Board. We have a report taken from the Connacht Sentinel.

GRIFFINS ONE POINT WIN OVER ARMY
FR GRIFFINS 1-4 ARMY 1-3

Fr. Griffins had a narrow one point victory over Army in a West Galway Senior Football match played at the sportsground on Sunday. After a dull first half, play opened up somewhat after the changeover, and although there were some good exchanges, the small attendance had little to enthuse about. Griffins, who made the most of their chances, just about deserved victory. They had by no means a marked superiority in any position, but their forwards unlike their Army counterparts made better use of their scoring opportunities.

Jimmy Ward, Seamus O'Rourke, Seamus Reidy and Mick Muldoon played great football in the winners' defence, while Tom Keaveny, Paddy Higgins and Paddy O'Brien were fast moving forwards. Joe Keville had a magnificent game at centre field and got good support from Seamus Gorman. Sheridan opened the scoring for Army with a point. After a close in free from Keaveny had rebounded from the upright, Dolan crashed it to the net for a Griffins goal. Sheridan added another point from a free and just before half-time Fives scored a great goal for Army. Half-time scores were Army 1-2, Fr. Griffins 1-0. Gorman pointed after the changeover and O'Brien levelled matters when he punched over the bar. Griffins took the lead when Keaveny again pointed. The same player had another minor before Duffy closed the scoring with a point for Army. Fr. Griffins total came from Brian Dolan 1-0, Tom Keaveny 0-2, Paddy O'Brien 0-1 and Seamus Gorman 0-1.

Note: Goal scorer Brian Dolan who now lives in Canada is a brother of the redoubtable Mick Dolan, present Chairman, and one of the strong men of the Fr. Griffins Club.

Between 1952 and 1960 Tuam Stars were the greatest team in the county, if not in the whole country. In that nine year period they won eight county senior championships and regularly supplied five or six players to the county team. Yet they were stopped in their tracks in 1953 by a great Fr. Griffins team that beat them decisively by four clear goals. Tuam also won the Senior League on six occasions in that nine year period. In the Championship of 1953, Tuam was drawn against Griffins and the game was fixed for the Sportsground, Galway, on the 12th July. C.I.E. laid on a special train to bring many hundreds of Tuam supporters to the match and the Tuam Boy Scouts Piper's Band also travelled and paraded the two teams around the pitch before the game. Fr. Griffins had never before paraded behind a band and perhaps it was the skirl of the pipes put the adrenaline coursing through the veins by the time the referee threw in the ball. Both the Connacht Sentinel and the Galway Observer went overboard in the write-up of this game and I would love to include both reports but pressure on space does not allow. On the toss of a coin I am publishing the Sentinel report loath though I am to leave out Johnny McMahon's great write up of this game.

"SCENES" AT SPORTSGROUND AS
FR. GRIFFINS ADVANCE
FR. GRIFFINS 4–4 TUAM 0–4

Fr. Griffins, creating one of the biggest upsets of the current championship by defeating Tuam, the holders, and Oughterard by a brilliant victory over Army, qualified for the next stages of the Senior Football Championship. At the Sportsground on Sunday Griffins gave a wonderful display and look like eventual winners of the title.

The Griffins/Tuam game was marred by ugly "incidents" in the closing stages. Referee Rickie Burke of Annaghdown had to stop the game frequently while the spectators invaded the pitch. The final whistle was the signal for a great invasion and fierce fighting followed for several minutes, before uniformed Gardai cleared the field. Before the game the teams paraded the field led by the Tuam Boy Scouts Piper's Band. The game itself was a pulsating affair, and with the wind to their

St. Augustines victory photograph with West Board and County Minor Football and Hurling Trophies 1961. Front row, from left: Pat O'Toole, Connie Ryan, Tom Gilmore, Frank Heaney, Johnny Flynn, Joe Campbell, Joe O'Brien, Rae Gilmore. Second row: Pat Burke, Jimmy Brennan, Murt Greaney, Liam Sammon, Tom Cantwell, Sean Conroy, Gay Gilmore, Pat Quinn, Ken Garvey, Eamonn Hardiman. Back row: Pat O'Neill, Gerry Corbett, Liam Kavanagh, Cathal Walsh, Jim Lawlor, Ken Moran, Jimmy Kelly, Declan Furey, Martin Coleman, Brian McCarthy.

backs the city boys piled up a total of 3–3 to Tuam's 0–3.

However, Tuam had not really got going and were expected to pull out and continue on their march towards retaining the title. Fr. Griffins can thank a great backline for their victory. In Gerry and Seamus Reidy and Jimmy Ward they had a defence that would do credit to a county side. Whenever the need arose they were on the mark and kicked with precision and cleared regularly. Able support was coming from Seamus Gorman, Mick Muldoon and Seamus O'Rourke while Tony Bane was very sound in goal. When the champions piled on the pressure in the second half the city defence put on their greatest show and held out. Tuam's attacks in the closing stages resembled Connacht Cup rugby, as forwards tried desperately to burst their way, head down, through a rock-like defence.

In Paddy O'Brien Griffins had a truly magnificent forward. The little dark-haired player earned a place on the County Senior Team for his display. He beat men twice his size and was always on the spot to crash home a score. His two vital goals were a treat to watch and proved him to be a great footballer. Other city forwards to impress were the Higgins', Paddy and Tom, Noel Jennings, Colm McCauley and Tom Keaveny. At centrefield Tony Hoade and Joe Keville had the toughest task of all. Against John Nallen and Christy McHugh they had their hands full, but, after continual wearing down got the upper hand and they were equally good in defence as in attack.

Tuam must attribute their defeat to the failure of their forwards to break through Griffins's defence. The full-forward line particularly failed and all the guile of Frank Stockwell and Tom Brosnan was not enough to score. Centrefielders Nallen and McHugh are responsible for keeping down the city team's first half tally. Sean Purcell, Tony Mongan and Frank Cloonan were the giants of the visitors defence but try as they might, they could not hold out against the city attack. Purcell and Mongan were up with the forwards in the closing stages but even they were unable to pierce through for the vital scores.

The Play

Griffins attacked from the start and Jimmy Ward led a move which Noel Jennings ended to the back of the net. Brosnan chalked up Tuam's first point but Keville replied with a similar score. O'Brien got possession shortly after this and scored Griffins' second goal. Jennings added a point, but a period of Tuam superiority followed and Stockwell and Mongan pointed. Tony Hoade from a free sent home a great goal to infuse new life in the city team and Paddy O'Brien pointed just before half-time. At the restart Tuam attacked in vain, but Griffins moved again and Tony Hoade pointed. Sean Purcell replied with a point, but further pressure brought no relief and then Paddy O'Brien brought the ball upfield to crash home a great goal past Joyce in the Tuam net. However the holders were not finished and attacked incessantly but could not crack the rock-like Griffins defence. When the final whistle sounded the pitch was invaded and the Fr. Griffins team were escorted off the field by the Gardai.

Fr. Griffins scores came from Paddy O'Brien 2-1, Noel Jennings 1-1, Tony Hoade 1-1 and Joe Keville 0-1.

Tuam replied per Sean Purcell 0-1, Frank Stockwell 0-1 Tony Mongan 0-1 and Tom Brosnan 0-1.

The Fr. Griffins team on duty was

	Tony Bane	
Seamus Reidy	Seamus O'Rourke	Gerry Reidy
Mick Muldoon	Jimmy Ward	Seamus Gorman
	Tony Hoade Joe Keville	
Tom Higgins	Colm McCauley	Noel Jennings
Tom Keaveny	Paddy O'Brien	Paddy Higgins

After the great victory over Tuam, Griffins were brought down to earth a few weeks later when Oughterard beat them by four points in the West Board final. Here is a report of the game taken from the Galway Observer written by Johnny McMahon.

FR. GRIFFINS RALLY CAME TOO LATE
OUGHTERARD NEW CHAMPIONS
OUGHTERARD 2-6 FR. GRIFFINS 1-5

Their all-out effort midway through the second half brought victory to Oughterard in the West Galway Senior Football Championship final at the Sportsground on Sunday, despite a great rally made by Fr. Griffins late in the game. Oughterard had a great defence and the men who shone in this hard working backline were Kyne, Keogh and Joyce. All three played fast, sure football and their combined fighting and undying spirit were the forces that repelled the home side. Tom McHugh at centrefield was another outstanding player, his magnificent place kicking was a highlight of his performance. For the vanquished Griffins, the Reidy brothers Gerry and Seamus and Seamus O'Rourke did their utmost whenever pressed by the Oughterard forwards, while the men whose gallant bid almost turned the tide were Jimmy Ward, Noel Jennings and Paddy O'Brien. At midfield Joe Keville was strongest and seldom gave Joyce an opportunity.

At half-time Griffins were ahead by 1-2 to 0-3. Early in the second half a goal by Tom McHugh paved the way for Oughterard's victory despite a late Griffins rally.

Fr. Griffins scores came from Jim Finan 1-0, Tony Hoade 0-3 and Jimmy Ward 0-2.

Towards the end of August, Griffins were beaten once again by Oughterard (our bogey team) in the county championship, but on this occasion the team was short some key players out through injury.

OUGHTERARD'S SIX POINT VICTORY
TO REACH FINAL
OUGHTERARD 1-8 FR. GRIFFINS 0-5

There was never any doubt about Oughterard's superiority over Fr. Griffins in their County Senior Football Semi-Final clash at Tuam on Sunday. Their winning margin was six points but if their forwards had made more use of their chances they would have won much more easily. Indeed up to the last few minutes there was always the chance that Fr. Griffins would equalize, as they were only three points down and were trying for

a goal to level the scoring. One of the chances was missed however and in a break-away down the field Oughterard got in for the winning goal. The score knocked all the fight out of Griffins and Oughterard did not give them any more chances. Star of the Oughterard side was Tom McHugh who has seldom played a more outstanding game. He scored six points and some of these were as brilliant as were ever witnessed in Tuam. Jimmy Ward was the mainstay of the Griffins fifteen. He was outstanding in defence in the first half and late in the game moved upfield to try and pull the game out of the fire. Other backs to play well were Seamus Reidy, Seamus Gorman and Seamus O'Rourke. Tony Hoade and Aidan Corrigan tried hard at centrefield but could not subdue McHugh. Colm McCauley and Joe Keville were dangerous in attack. This game marked the return of Aidan Corrigan who was out since early May and had a cartilage removed. Also back to help out was Mick Dowling, the hero of so many games in the past. Mick was in semi-retirement but rallied to the colours when injuries sidelined some key players. Players who scored for Griffins were Tony Hoade 0-2, Colm McCauley 0-1, Paddy Higgins 0-1 and Mick Dowling 0-1.

The tide turned in our favour in mid-September when we had a seven point victory over our rivals Oughterard to win the Senior League for the first time. For a report of the match we are indebted to the Connacht Tribune.

Congratulations and Best Wishes to Fr. Griffins

from

Ernst and Young,

KILTARTAN HOUSE,
FORSTER STREET,
GALWAY.

Phone: (091) 61184 — Fax: (091) 65242

FR. GRIFFINS BRILLIANT LEAGUE VICTORY
FR. GRIFFINS 3–4 OUGHTERARD 1–3

Despite having several changes enforced on the team Fr. Griffins had a very good win over old rivals Oughterard in the final of the County Senior League played at Currandulla on Sunday.

The game wasn't without "incident", which began before the throw-in. Neither team brought a football and the football board failed to provide one for this very important game. So we had the ludicrous situation of thirty players, a referee, four umpires, two linesmen and several hundred spectators present but no football. After a frantic search a ball was provided by the Franciscan Brothers in the nearby monastery. Finally the game got underway at four-thirty, one hour after the appointed time.

Fr. Griffins had the wind in the first half and took full advantage, turning in a good display, they led at half-time by 3–3 to 0–1. At the start of the second half Tom McHugh scored a great goal from a fourteen yard free. At this stage excitement reached fever level and the Griffins backs came into their own, shutting out the Oughterard forwards. Tempers became frayed and the referee gave marching orders to one of the Oughterard defenders. The winners were by far a better balanced side. In Tom Higgins at centre-half back they had the man of the match. Other backs to shine were Gerry and Seamus Reidy while Ambrose Meaney at centrefield also impressed. Jimmy Ward, Joe Keville and Paddy Higgins were a fast moving forward line and they got good help from Tom Keaveny and Jim Finan. Paddy Higgins was top scorer and one of his goals was described as magnificent. Scores for Griffins came from Paddy Higgins 2–0, Tom Keaveny 1–1, Jimmy Ward 0–2 and Joe Keville 0–1. McHugh, Keogh, Kyne and Joyce scored for Oughterard.

MEMORIES OF 1953

Looking back at 1953 we find it was the best of times and the worst of times (Shades of Charles Dickens). It was a year in which with any reasonable luck Fr. Griffins could have swept the boards and won all the championships. However we didn't reckon with injuries to some of our most experienced and key players. Aidan Corrigan was out for four

months and even after his return he never again regained his former greatness. Mick Dowling was also nursing an injury which forced him into semi-retirement, and full forward Paddy O'Brien, after his great game against Tuam in the Championship suffered a severe knee injury in a seven-a-side tournament in Dunmore just one week before the County Semi-Final. This injury finished his football career. On the bright side there were some great displays from the new men and also from the not so new. The new men were Tony Hoade, Colm McCauley, Tom Keaveny, Noel Jennings, Ambrose Meaney and Jim Finan. While the experienced players like Seamus O'Rourke, Mick Muldoon, Mick Dowling, Gerry and Seamus Reidy, Tom Higgins, Seamus Gorman, Joe Keville, Jimmy Ward and Paddy Higgins, were still in top form. One of the most consistent marksmen over a long period must be Paddy Higgins who always popped up to get vital scores. Jimmy Ward our founder in chief, continued to turn in great displays whether it was in the backline or forwards.

Four of the 1953 team were selected on the Galway Senior Panel for the first game in the National league against Dublin in Croke Park. This was the first visit of a Galway Senior Football team to headquarters since 1945. The four men honoured were Jimmy Ward, Tom Higgins, Paddy O'Brien and Seamus Gorman. The big names in the Dublin side were Kevin Heffernan and Ollie Freaney. Paddy O'Brien could not take his place because of a knee injury but Tom Higgins and Jimmy Ward lined out and both played well. The game ended in a draw. Incidentally the four Griffins players and Tom McHugh from Oughterard were driven to Dublin by a long time Griffins member Willie Tyrrell, going up on a Saturday evening they stopped for a chat and a drink at the pub in Moate owned by Sean Kindillon.

After winning the League in 1953 Fr. Griffins entered a long barren period without any success at Senior Level. However the city Juvenile Leagues were to start about 1957 and that did bring success to the club in 1959 and 1960 at juvenile level and again in 1961 in the Minor grade. But back to the present and how we fared in 1954.

CHAPTER 4

A Lean Spell

In the early part of 1954 Aidan Corrigan left to take up employment in Dublin and another link with 1948 was broken. On the football scene we travelled to Oughterard to play the home side and won this game by 1–5 to 1–4, this game was in the league. Once again the report in the papers was very small but we do know that Griffins had good players in Gerry Reidy, Tom Higgins, Tom Finn, Mick Greally, Jimmy Ward, Paddy Higgins and Tony Bane. Mention of Tony Bane I wish to point out that he was a goalkeeper of some ability and had a great game against Tuam in 1953 and was one of the new and promising players to join the club. In the County Championships Griffins came up against Tuam and the game was played at Ballinasloe. Tuam were victorious on this occasion and while not wishing to take from them Fr. Griffins were but a shadow of the side that performed so well the previous year.

Griffins had the aid of the breeze in the first half but did not take full advantage of it. Indeed it was a poor half hour of football from both sides. The score at half-time was Fr. Griffins 1–3 Tuam 0–3. Playing with the breeze in the second half Tuam dominated the play. In this period Griffins failed to score while Tuam sent over seven points. The final score was Tuam 0–10 Fr. Griffins 1–3. Tuam were best served by the big three Sean Purcell, John Nallen and Frank Stockwell. Those who tried hardest for Griffins were Gerry Reidy, Jimmy Ward, Ambrose Meaney and Tom Higgins.

Despite making our exit from the Cup there was joy in the Fr. Griffins Club when one of our best and most popular players Tony Hoade was ordained to the priesthood. Tony's ordination took place at St. Mary's Cathedral Kilkenny in June 1954. Tony Hoade lived in Canal Road, Galway, with his mother, his sisters Doreen and Mary and his brother Joe. After spending several months at home Father Tony left for Australia in November. Before his departure there was a club get-together in his honour and tributes paid to him by his friends and team mates. Tony visits Galway every ten years or so and still has a great interest in his old club. To-day his game is golf. Rev. Anthony Hoade is now a parish priest in New South Wales but the Tony Hoade Cup which he presented to the club many years ago, is awarded to the clubman of the year at our annual social. I need hardly say this award is eagerly sought after.

Fr. Griffins first game in 1955 was actually the West Board Final of 1954. We do not know why this competition ran so late and the newspapers of the time do not enlighten us, but we do know that we played Army in this final in March. The report on this game is very

St. Augustines Team Photograph 1961. Front row, from left: Liam Kavanagh, Joe Campbell, Ken Garvey, Pat O'Neill, Frank Heaney (Capt.), Murt Greaney, Jimmy Brennan, Liam Sammon, Jimmy Kelly, Ken Moran. Back row: Pat Quinn, Connie Ryan, Johnny Flynn, Rae Gilmore, Gay Gilmore, Tom Gilmore, Pat O'Toole, Declan Furey, Sean Conroy, Eamonn Hardiman, Tom Cantwell, Pat Burke, Joe O'Brien. Mascot: Michael Monahan.

sketchy but Army came out on top winning by 0-5 to 0-3. Jack Kissane, Jim Fives, Jimmy Brophy and Billy O'Neill were Army's best while Griffins had good players in Gerry Reidy, Tom Higgins, Jimmy Ward and Colm McCauley. Joe Keville 0-1, Jim Finan 0-1, Colm McCauley 0-1 got Fr. Griffins total of three points.

A couple of weeks later we travelled to Carraroe to play Micheal Breathnach's in the County League and once more suffered defeat, Breathnach's winning by 3-3 to 2-5. Former Griffins player Martin Kilmartin with Peter O'Shea and "Big Pat" McDonagh were best for the winners, while Griffins were best served by Tom Higgins, Paddy O'Brien, Colm McCauley and Jimmy Ward. The small report in the paper mentions that Paddy O'Brien made a return after a lengthy absence through injury and marked his return by scoring 2-1.

Our next outing in the League was against Clonbur in Headford and we won this game by four points. Griffins were best served by Jim Finan, who scored a goal from a penalty, Tom Higgins, Joe Keville and Seamus O'Rourke. Paddy O'Brien who came on as a sub in this game aggravated a knee injury and had to retire. He never played again and so another link with 1948 was broken.

In the next round of the league Griffins met old rivals Oughterard. This game took place on the 1st May in the Sports-ground and here is a report from the Connacht Sentinel of 3rd May 1955.

OUGHTERARD 0-9 FR. GRIFFINS 0-6

A faster Oughterard side had a merited three points victory over Fr. Griffins in a game that never reached a high standard. Towards the end of the game Oughterard led by only two points, Griffins got plenty of opportunities of levelling the scores but failed to take advantage of them. A number of close in frees were either driven wide or were cleared by the backs. Jimmy Ward, Jimmy Finan and Jimmy Kilroy were the best of the Griffins defence while Joe Lowney, Tom Higgins, Seamus Gorman and Colm McCauley tried hard in attack. Joe Keville had his bright moments at centrefield. Seamus Gorman 0-2, Ambrose Meaney 0-1, Noel Jennings 0-1, Colm McCauley 0-1 and Joe Lowney 0-1 scored for Griffins.

In the first round of the championship Griffins were drawn against Milltown and this game was played in Tuam Stadium at the end of June and ended in a two point win for Fr. Griffins on a score of 1-6 to 2-1. The report from the Connacht Sentinel informs us that it was a scrappy

game, and Griffins had to fight hard to overcome the Milltown challenge. There was only a point between the teams at half-time, but Griffins clinched the issue when Seamus Gorman flicked the ball over his head into the Milltown net for a very good goal. Jimmy Ward played his usual safe game and broke up many attacks. He got good support from Seamus O'Rourke, Jimmy Kilroy and Joe Keville while Paddy Hoare, Joe Lowney and the Swords brothers also played well. Scores came from Seamus Gorman 1-0, Paddy Hoare 0-2, Aidan Swords 0-1, Joe Lowney 0-1, Tommy O'Toole 0-1 and Glynn 0-1.

So Fr. Griffins found themselves once again in the Semi-final of the Senior Championship and were drawn to play Ballinasloe in Athenry on the 14th August. However on this occasion Ballinasloe were victorious winning by 1-8 to 2-3. Once more we rely on the Connacht Sentinel for this report on the game.

> Ballinasloe reached the final of the senior championship by scoring a deserving 1-8 to 2-3 win over Fr. Griffins in the semi-final played at Athenry.
>
> The game never reached any great heights and it was only in the second half that the Ballinasloe men asserted a marked superiority. Best men in the winners side were Gerry Daly, Brian Naughton and Sean Keely. Fr. Griffins had a very good defender in Tom Higgins who received good support from Jimmy Ward. The other backs were slow to get rid of the ball and this proved fatal. Joe Lowney was outstanding at centrefield in the first half but after the change over he faded from the scene. In the forward line Aidan Swords, Paddy Hoare and Tommy O'Toole were best.
>
> This was the team on duty -

	John Buckley	
Tom Higgins	Seamus Reidy	Seamus O'Rourke
Tom Finn	Jimmy Ward	Jim Finan
	Joe Keville Joe Lowney	
Aidan Swords	Paddy Hoare	Kevin Swords
P. Higgins	Seamus Gorman	Tommy O'Toole

Jimmy Kilroy replaced Tom Finn during the game.

Gaelic football reached glorious heights within the county in 1956 when a great Galway team won the All-Ireland final after a lapse of eighteen years. While once again Fr. Griffins failed to win any major

titles we did have a player on this great All-Ireland winning side. That player was Aidan Swords, who like Aidan Corrigan in 1952, brought great honour to himself and to his club. In April, Fr. Griffins were privileged to entertain Armagh Harps. This was the first visit of a six county team to Galway and this game took place in the Kenny Memorial Park, Athenry. So great was the interest in this game that Fr. Griffins invited some of their friends from the Army team to take part. The visitors won easily on the day by 3-7 to 0-6. This is an account of the game taken from the Connacht Tribune.

A strong Armagh Harps team had a decisive 3-7 to 0-6 victory over Fr. Griffins in a senior football challenge at the Kenny Memorial Park, Athenry on Sunday. The winners led by 2-1 to 0-3 at half time.

A feature of the Armagh play was their high fielding. There was not a weak link on the team but they lacked finish as many balls were sent wide, which, with a little better positional sense, could have resulted in scores. For Fr.Griffins the man of the match was Jimmy Ward. His high catching, fielding and clearances for the full hour were a treat while Joe O'Neill in goal played a grand game. Joe Lowney and Joe Keville at centrefield had a fair share of the play whilst both forward lines gave a grand display. Fr. Griffins scores came from Joe Keville 0-1, Jimmy Ward 0-1, Ambrose Meaney 0-1, Tom McHugh 0-1, J. McMahon 0-1 and P. Lynch 0-1.

This was the team on duty against Armagh Harps -

	Joe O'Neill	
Tom Higgins	J. McKilkenny	Seamus Gorman
Kevin Sexton	Jimmy Ward	A. Morgan
	Joe Lowney Joe Keville	
P. Lynch	Billy O'Neill	Tom McHugh
Tom Finn	Ambrose Meaney	J. McMahon

Some weeks later Griffins were beaten in the Senior League by Annaghdown the score being 2-2 to 1-3. Tom Higgins, Jimmy Ward, Joe Lowney and Aidan Swords were the only Griffins men to play up to form.

However, in the Championship against Corofin, played towards the end of July, Fr. Griffins were back to better form and won by 0-9 to 0-3. Once more from the Tribune -

FITTER GRIFFINS OUST COROFIN

At the Kenny Memorial Park, Athenry, on Sunday Fr. Griffins after a mediocre first half pulled away in the second half to win comfortably by six points. For the winners Buckley had an easy hour in goal and when pressure came to that area he was well guarded by the fullback line of Tom Finn, A. Morgan and J. Kilroy. Jimmy Ward was best in the half back line and could be seen to great advantage in the second half. He got good assistance from Kevin Sexton while J. Lowney was the better of the centrefield pair. A. Swords, J. Keville and P. Duggan were a grand combination in the half forward line. Others to impress were J. Toolan and B. O'Donnell. Fr. Griffins total of nine points came from Broddy O'Donnell 0–5, J. Toolan 0–2, A. Swords 0–1 and P. Duggan 0–1.

The Duggan mentioned above is Paddy "Mogan" Duggan one of the great hurling family from College Road and Liam Mellows fame. Indeed Paddy Duggan was a very good footballer but his first love was hurling. This was the side that beat Corofin –

	J. Buckley	
T. Finn	A. Morgan	J. Kilroy
C. Toland	J. Ward	K. Sexton
	J. Toolan J. Lowney	
A. Swords	J. Keville	P. Duggan
P. Higgins	B. O'Donnell	C. McCauley

In the next round of the championship Griffins played Ballinasloe and this game took place towards the end of July. Because of Galway winning the Connacht Championship games at club level had to take a back seat. This tie ended in a draw Fr. Griffins 1–9 Ballinasloe 3–3, and the replay did not take place until February 1957.

In the drawn match Ballinasloe got off to a great start and scored two early goals. It was a very fast open game with football of a high standard. Fr. Griffins came back and gave a very spirited display to draw level. Overall a draw was a fair result. Sean Keely and Gerry Kirwan starred for Ballinasloe while the old reliables Jimmy Ward and Tom Higgins were outstanding for Fr. Griffins.

The club played one more game in early September, this was against Clonbur in the West Board Championship. This game took place in Athenry and Griffins who fielded a depleted team were well and truly

beaten by 2-10 to 1-4. The most significant thing about this game was that Jimmy Ward who had an injured thumb played in goal. Jimmy who was the co-founder of the club with John Cotter back in February 1948 played in every sector of the team. It was most fitting that Jimmy Ward was the last remaining link with the 1948 side and continued to play until the end of the decade.

The final event of 1956 was the Club's Annual Social and this very popular re-union dinner was held in mid-December; here is part of the Tribunes coverage of that event.

FR. GRIFFINS G.A.A. CLUB CELEBRATES
"One of the best clubs in Ireland".

This is how Mr. Jimmy Ward toasted the Fr. Griffin Gaelic Football Club at the club's Annual Dinner and Social in the Imperial Hotel on Sunday night last. Rev. P. Lee, M.A. Vice-President Colaiste Einde, presided and there was an attendance of about ninety members and friends. The dinner was followed by a gay session of song and dance in a carnival-effect setting.

After the toast of Ireland, proposed by Mr. Paddy Higgins, Hon. Secretary of the Club, had been honoured, Mr. Thomas Gill, N.T., proposed the toast of the G.A.A. speaking in Irish and afterwards in English. He recalled the football clubs that won honours for Galway City in other years - Galway Gaels, Wolfe Tones, the Army Teams and the University College Teams, and said that the fine tradition was being maintained to-day by the Fr. Griffin Club. He spoke of his own playing days with the Galway Gaels team and said that no one could have played with a finer body of men. He paid particular tribute to the Army members of that team and said that every time they went on the field they blessed themselves and never raised a hand or boot to injure an opponent. That he said was the true spirit of the G.A.A.

Mr. Jimmy Ward proposed the toast of the Fr. Griffin Club, and spoke of the great spirit of enthusiasm, unity and sportsmanship in the club during the past year and in all its years since its foundation about a decade ago. The club he said had lost good members down the years but they had gained new strength in replacements. The winning of trophies was not the be-all and end-all - pleasant though victory was - and the club had known victory. Unity and sportsmanship were more important

Here is a group of juvenile players from the City League and St. Augustines, taken about 1959/'60. Some of the officials are, 2nd row, centre: Jim Kilroy, Paddy Higgins with cup, Mick Sullivan, Rev. Fr. McGoran, John Cotter, Con Crowley, Tom Gilmore with cup and Jimmy Campbell. 3rd row, extreme left: Sean Dunleavy and extreme right: Willie Walsh.

but the club still had an interest in the Galway County Championship and were not without hope of winning it out. He proposed, he said, the toast of one of the best clubs in Galway, if not in Ireland.

Mr. Oliver O'Rourke, B.E., Club Chairman, proposed the toast of the guests and welcomed Fr. Lee who he said was now continuing in Colaisde Einde excellent work for football he had previously done in St. Mary's College. In welcoming the press representatives he referred to the role of publicity in the promotion of games and said that Fr. Griffins club proposed to co-operate more closely with the press.

Mr. J. F. Fitzgerald, Editor "The Connacht Tribune" responded and paid tribute to the club for its sportsmanship and its enthusiasm. Rev. Fr. Lee and Mr. O'Rourke paid tribute to the hotel management for excellent catering and service.

At this point I would like to pay tribute to three men who joined the club around the same time. The men in question are Jimmy Kilroy, Oliver O'Rourke and Con Crowley. Jimmy arrived on the scene in 1954/55 and quickly found himself on the team. A defender of some ability Jimmy was unfortunate to have come along while the team was going through a lean period, so he missed out on major honours. However, Jimmy who was the fifth garda to play for the club, soon established himself as a great clubman and official. He was Chairman for a number of years and was actively involved in all of Griffins' later triumphs. Jimmy also devoted much of his time to the Inter-Firm Leagues which are part and parcel of the G.A.A. scene in the city for the past thirty years. In 1987 a special presentation was made to Jimmy Kilroy by his colleagues in the Garda Siochana for his contribution to all sport in the Gardai at administration level over twenty-five years. This honour could not go to a nicer or better man.

The second member of the trio is Oliver O'Rourke, B.E. Oliver was also chairman of our club for a number of years, indeed many consider him to have been one of our better chairmen - he certainly was one of the most popular - and just like Jimmy Kilroy he never spared himself, working hard and giving freely of his time and energy to the club he loved so well. Oliver also had the pleasure of sharing in some of Fr. Griffins most memorable victories.

Last but not least, we come to Con Crowley one of nature's gentlemen. Con first joined Fr. Griffins late in 1956 at the invitation of Mick Dowling, and just like Jimmy and Oliver he also became chairman at a

later date. Con was very much involved in organising the city leagues for juveniles back in 1957 and Paddy Higgins was another man so involved. It was from the same juvenile leagues that the great football talent that was later to play such a part in Fr. Griffins and Galway football was first nurtured. Con Crowley served the Fr. Griffins Club admirably for over thirty years. He was an executive with the Western health Board. He resigned from that body in early 1987 after many years service to take up a position as Chief Executive of a Health Centre and Hospital in Saudi Arabia. Con departed for Saudi on the 3rd February 1987 and one week before his departure he was guest of honour at a most enjoyable function held in the Sacre Coeur Hotel given by his friends and colleagues of the Fr. Griffin Club. We all look forward to his return as we can ill-afford to lose a man of his calibre.

Jimmy Kilroy, Oliver O'Rourke and Con Crowley have lived in the Salthill area for many years and their loyalty and devotion to the Fr. Griffins club has never wavered. It is people like that that make Fr. Griffins a really great club.

The postponed 1956 championship was resumed in February 1957 with a double-header in Tuam Stadium. Tuam beat a young Dunmore side by 1-9 to 0-5 while Ballinasloe beat Griffins by 0-9 to 1-3. Most of the players suffered from the long lay-off and the standard of football was not high.

After a shaky start Ballinasloe came to life in the second half and beat Fr. Griffins by three points in a dull encounter. Jimmy Ward impressed at midfield in the first half and at fullback in the second half. Other backs to impress were Colm Toland, Tom Higgins and Kevin Sexton while Joe Lowney also shone at midfield. Aidan Swords, Broddy O'Donnell and Seamus Gorman were best in attack. Scores came from Seamus Gorman 1-0, Aidan Swords 0-2, Jimmy Ward 0-1 and the team was -

	T. Kennedy	
J. Buckley	C. Toland	S. McCaffrey
V. Gorman	T. Higgins	K. Sexton
	J. Lowney J. Ward	
J. Keville	P. Taaffe	A. Swords
A. Morgan	B. O'Donnell	S. Gorman

In April Griffins played U.C.G. in the League and were beaten by 2-8 to 2-6. Lack of fitness told against Griffins. U.C.G. were ahead by five points at one stage and held on despite a good fight back. Best for

Griffins were Jack Toolan, Tom Higgins, Pat Taaffe and Broddy O'Donnell.

In our next outing in the league the club had a facile win over local side St. Kierans winning by 2-9 to 1-2. Joe Keville scored what was described as a wonder goal in this game and others to play well were A. Swords, J. Ward, S. Gorman, J. Kilroy and Paddy Dunne.

We then played Army in the West Board and were well beaten, losing by 3-6 to 1-0. According to the paper Griffins were short many regulars.

In the County Championship played in Athenry in July, Griffins played Tuam. On this occasion Fr. Griffins gave one of their worst ever displays in the ten year history of the club and suffered their greatest ever defeat Tuam winning by 7-13 to 1-6. Griffins poor showing was mainly due to the absence of seven of their regular team. They were short Jimmy Ward, Jimmy Kilroy, Colm Toland, Broddy O'Donnell, John Buckley, Joe Keville and V. Fogarty. McGinn tried hard in goal but got poor cover from his full-back line. Sexton and O'Shea tried hard in the half back line, McCaffrey and Meaney had a hard task at centrefield while Paddy Dunne was the best of the forward line. Griffins scores came from McCaffrey 1-2, Taaffe 0-2, Dunne 0-1 and Meaney 0-1. Frank Stockwell was top scorer for Tuam notching 4-2. This was a very good Tuam side, in the semi-final they beat Milltown by 6-11 to 0-6 and in the final beat Ballygar by 4-7 to 2-6.

1957 saw the arrival in the club of Paddy Dunne the great Westmeath and Leinster player. Paddy was a star footballer who unfortunately arrived on the scene while Griffins were going through a lean period so he missed out on the honours list. It was also the year that saw the tragic death of a really great player J.C. McHugh. "J.C." was one of the stars of the Tuam side that played Griffins in that epic encounter in 1953, he also played with St. Jarlath's, Dunmore and the Galway Senior Team. He emigrated to America late in 1953 and in May 1957, while playing in a hurling game in Philadelphia he received an accidental blow to the head and died.

The final event in 1957 was the Club's Annual Dinner. This took place on the 22nd December. Guest of honour at this dinner was Rev. Tom Parker who returned from Japan. Here is a brief extract from the Tribune -

> Rev. T. Parker, who served as a curate in Galway's Cathedral parish about eight years ago and has been on the missions in Japan since 1950, was a guest of the Fr. Griffin Club at the Club's Annual Dinner and Social or

Sunday night, and met old friends and new members of the club which he had befriended as an officer and player during his time in Galway."

There was an attendance of about eighty at the function which was held in the Imperial Hotel, Galway and presided over at the formal session by Rev. P. O'Laoi, Vice-President of Colaisde Einde, and President of the Club. Other club officials who were in attendance were Mr. Paddy Higgins, Club Secretary; Mr. Jimmy Ward, Club Captain; Mr. Oliver O'Rourke, B.E. Club Chairman. The press was represented by Mr. J.F. Fitzgerald, Editor, Connacht Tribune.

Enda Colleran with the Sam Maguire Cup and the management and staff of Tierneys Guest House, Aran. Alongside Enda is well known Galwegian Paudge McNamara.

The era of The Gorgeous Gussies

Entering on the second decade of the Club's history we find that 1958 was not a very successful year on the playing field. However, it was not all doom and gloom as our juvenile section were beginning to emerge as a force at under age level, and it was from this section that the great Fr. Griffins teams of later years were to come. In late April Fr. Griffins were heavily defeated by Army in the West Board semi-final, going down to a fourteen points defeat on a score of Army 3-6 Griffins 0-1. The driving rain and greasy ball ruled out top class football but the game nevertheless was interesting. Army had fine backs in Jim Fives, Jack Kissane and J. Raftery while Joe Young, Brian McHugh and F. Leonard shone in attack. Tom Higgins played a great game at full-back for Griffins while K. Sexton, Seamus Gorman and a youthful M. Dermody also impressed. Paddy Dunne was their best forward. V. Fogarty scored Fr. Griffins solitary point.

Griffins returned to winning form against U.C.G. in mid-May when they had a good win in the League - Fr. Griffins 1-3 U.C.G. 0-2. Fr. Griffins, who had fared badly in recent matches made a welcome return to their best form and confounded the critics when scoring a well merited victory over a much fancied U.C.G. side in their Senior League tie at Pearse Stadium. The winners introduced two minors in their line out and Peter O'Reilly and Colie Folan by their displays proved in no uncertain manner that they have come to stay. O'Reilly was the outstanding forward, his cute moves and quicksilver bursts being a delight to watch, while Folan in the half-back line covered up with the coolness of a veteran. Paddy Sweeney and old reliables Jimmy Ward outplayed their opposite numbers at centrefield. Fr. Griffins scores came from P. Dunne 1-0, J. Toolan, P.O'Reilly and G. McCombs 0-1 each. The team was -

	N. O'Neill	
V. Gorman	T. Higgins	S. Gorman
K. Sexton	M. Dermody	C. Folan
	P. Sweeney J. Ward	
P. O'Reilly	P. Dunne	L. Meegan
G. McCombs	J. Toolan	J. Carmody

Ballinasloe 3-7 Fr. Griffins 3-2

In July Griffins met Ballinasloe in the County Championship and were defeated in a game described as a "dour struggle". The newspaper

reports also state that Ballinasloe scored two soft goals. The most notable feature from Fr. Griffins point of view was the display of a young Martin Newell who outplayed Roscommon man Tony White. The team was -

	J. Ward	
V. Gorman	T. Higgins	M. Dermody
K. Sexton	P. Dunne	M. Newell
	P. Sweeney F. Gaffney	
P. Reilly	M. Higgins	W. Kelly
P. Higgins	P. Taaffe	S. Gorman

In the Newbridge seven-a-side tournament played over a number of weeks Fr. Griffins came out on top after some great displays. The following is a report from the Connacht Sentinel dated 2nd September.

> Fr. Griffins maintained the good form they displayed some weeks ago in the earlier rounds of the Newbridge seven-a-side football tournament when they decisively beat Mountbellew in the final. In the semi-final Griffins defeated the host club by 0-5 to 0-1. The final was played before a huge crowd that included many cross-channel and American visitors. During the game Griffins lost one of their star players, Vincent Gorman, through injury but into the breach stepped Jimmy Ward who helped in no small way to bring the magnificent gold medals to Fr. Griffins. Final Score - Fr. Griffins 3-5 Mountbellew 0-4. Griffins scores came from M. Newell 1-0, E. Dunleavy 1-2, J. Ward 1-0, K. Sexton 0-1, T. Higgins 0-1 and M. Dermody 0-1. Fr. Griffins team - N. McGinn (who excelled in goal), V. Gorman, T. Higgins, M. Newell, K. Sexton, M. Dermody, E. Dunleavy, sub J. Ward.

ST AUGUSTINES

We now turn to our juveniles who played under the name of St. Augustines. This name was chosen to compliment one of our most esteemed officers Rev. Fr. P. Killian an Augustinian priest in Galway who served our club so well for many years. This is the first of many great wins by St. Augustines and the report is from the Tribune of August 1958.

ST. AUGUSTINES ARE CHAMPIONS
ST AUGUSTINES 4–9 ST MICHAELS 2–1

St. Augustines with a display of intelligent football that would do justice to many of their elders, had a facile win over St. Michaels in a juvenile West Board decider at Newcastle on Tuesday last. From the word go the winners got down to business in real earnest and with Tom Gilmore and Brian McCarthy winning the midfield battle, the forwards got a plentiful supply of the ball which they readily turned to good account. These same forwards were a treat to watch. Pivoted around elusive Joe Campbell on the forty they swung the leather about from wing to wing and not once did their well-executed movements go unrewarded. Micksey Harty, Eamonn Lee, Sean Callaghan and Michael O'Connor saw to that and when they turned over with a clear lead of ten points the fat was certainly in the melting pot for the Shantalla lads. Undaunted the latter rallied their forces in the second half and tried every trick in the bag to reduce the deficit. However they had to content themselves with two consolation goals in the closing stages. A great victory for St. Augustines and a proud moment for Fr. Griffins. The game was refereed by Paddy Higgins of Erin's Hope club.

1959

Early in the year Griffins played U.C.G. in the West Board Championship and were victorious winning by 1–8 to 0–7. This was our first win in 1959 and just the tonic we needed. Here is a small report from the Sentinel

FR. GRIFFINS BEAT U.C.G.
FR. GRIFFINS 1–8 U.C.G. 0–7

On Friday night last at Fahy's Field an under-strength Fr. Griffins team defeated U.C.G. in the West Board Championship. Played in excellent conditions the attendance were served with some delightful football and although College tried hard to take the lead the Fr. Griffins half-back line of E. McCroughan, Paddy Dunne and M. Fox repelled time and time again the College attacks.

St. Augustines 1960. From row, from left: Murt Greaney, Ken Moran, Joe Burke, Joe Campbell, Frank Brennan, Terry Small, Pat O'Neill. Second row: Brian McCarthy, Gerry Corbett, Liam Sammon, Declan Furey, Sean Conroy, Joe O'Brien, Cyril Fox, Cathal Walsh, Liam Kavanagh. Back row: Rae Gilmore, Donagh O'Donoghue, Jimmy Kelly, Pat Burke, Patsy Durnin, Frank Heaney, Johnny Flynn, Tom Cantwell.

At centre half-back Kilbane fielded magnificently for U.C.G. but when E. Kehoe, the Carlow county footballer, was moved to centre-half forward Fr. Griffins forward line really showed sparkle. Seamus Doyle, S. Gorman, Paddy Higgins and P. Reilly blended well and were unlucky on a few occasions not to have scores.

In June Griffins played the Mayo League finalists Ballinrobe in a tournament game and won by 4-7 to 3-5. This was a good win and this is the report from the Tribune.

FR. GRIFFINS IN TOP FORM
FR. GRIFFINS 4-7 BALLINROBE 3-5

Fr. Griffins were in rare form when defeating Mayo league finalists Ballinrobe at the Pearse Stadium on Tuesday evening last. The local side, aided by a fairly strong breeze in the opening half, held sway in all sectors. The foundation of their success was laid at midfield where Joe Lowney and Paddy Dunne were much too crafty for their opposite numbers. The winners' forwards could not have wished for a better service and with new acquisition Mick Laide distributing the ball intelligently on the 40 scores mounted rapidly. At half time the winners led by 4-5 to 0-1 due in no small measure to the accomplished work of Laide, McGann and hurler Paddy Egan. In the second half Ballinrobe fared much better but their attacks were repulsed by a solid Griffins defence in which Peter O'Shea in the new role of full-back, Martin Newell, who played a storming game at left half, and Eugene McCrohan were always prominent. Outstanding for Fr. Griffins were Newell, Laide, Dunne, Mcginn, O'Shea and Egan and the scorers were McGinn 1-2, Laide 1-2, Dunne 1-2, Gaughan 1-0 and McDonagh 0-1.

Fr. Griffins' next game was in the County Championship against old rivals An Cead Cath (Army). Griffins won this game but only just. Once more we publish the report from the Sentinel.

MIDFIELD SUPREMACY SWINGS TIDE FR. GRIFFINS GOT THERE BUT WITHOUT MUCH GLORY

FR. GRIFFINS 1-5 AN CEAD CATH 1-4

Fr. Griffins made a successful if unimpressive come-back at Pearse Stadium on Sunday when they qualified for the next round of the Co. Galway Senior Football Championship. With only a few minutes to go Joe Young shot through a ruck of players for a great goal which left the Army a single point behind the city side. But try as the Army could to get the equaliser they failed and it was Griffins who took up the attack in the dying minutes but Mick Gaughan missed an open goal.

Paddy Egan, the county hurling captain, was Griffins' most dangerous forward. Jimmy Ward was always worrying the Army defence but Mick Laide, star of the recent Galway/Mayo game, disappointed and was not the power expected. Jack Kissane gets credit for this, for in this duel of Kerrymen Jack was the sounder. Noel McGinn was safe between the posts and Peter O'Shea, Joe Lowney and Michael Dermody were best of the defence. Fr. Griffins scores came from Jimmy Ward 1-0, Paddy Egan 0-3 and Paddy Dunne 0-2. Lineout -

	N. McGinn	
S. Doyle	P. O'Shea	E. McCrohan
J. Lowney	E. Kehoe	M. Dermody
	P. Dunne N. Boylan	
J. Ward	M. Laide	P. Egan
S. Gorman	P. Sweeney	V. Gorman

Fr. Griffins were now in the semi-final against Annaghdown and a big improvement was needed but alas it was not forthcoming so Griffins made their exit from the championship.

ANNAGHDOWN SLAM FR. GRIFFINS TO QUALIFY FOR CO. S.F. FINAL

ANNAGHDOWN 1-6 FR. GRIFFINS 1-4

Annaghdown, winners of the Galway Junior Football Championship title last year reached the County Senior Football Final with an unexpected victory over the city team Fr. Griffins in the semi-final played at the Kenny Memorial Stadium, Athenry, on Sunday.

Hero of the Annaghdown victory was undoubtedly Frank Kavanagh who turned almost certain defeat into victory when early in the second half he crashed the ball into the corner of the Fr. Griffins net with a real power drive. Surrounded at the time by Fr. Griffins defenders, he got in a telling blow.

Fr. Griffins were beaten by a stronger finishing side despite having the services of men of such outstanding football ability as Paddy Dunne, Mick Laide, Kevin Sexton, Noel Boylan and Peter O'Shea. Griffins led at half-time by 1-4 to 0-3 but failed to score in the second half. Fr. Griffins scores came from Tom Higgins 1-0, E. Kehoe 0-2, S. Gorman 0-1, P. Dunne 0-1. The team was -

	N. McGinn	
J. Ward	P. O'Shea	E. McCroghan
K. Sexton	N. Boylan	M. Dermody
	P. Dunne P. Sweeney	
V. Gorman	M. Laide	E. Kehoe
S. Gorman	T. Higgins	M. Gaughan

Once more Fr. Griffins had nothing to show for their efforts at senior level but our juveniles in the form of St. Augustines were going great guns. We now publish a report from the Tribune of August 1959.

ST. AUGUSTINES RETAIN FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP
ST. AUGUSTINES 6-8 OUGHTERARD 0-2

St. Augustines became West Board Juvenile Football champions for the second year in succession with a well merited win over Oughterard at Pearse Stadium on Wednesday evening last.

The losers came to town with a big reputation, having already dispensed of a good Clifden side in the semi-final but after a promising first half they folded up completely on the turn-over. No matter how hard they tried they could never match the brilliance of a well balanced city fifteen. St. Augustines led at half time by seven points. On resuming it was all one way traffic with T.J. Fogarty and Tom Gilmore holding the whip hand in the centre. As a result the forwards enjoyed a generous supply of the ball and now those

same forwards rallied to the call of their skipper Joe Campbell on the forty. As well as notching 1-3 of their total the sturdy Joe opened up some grand movements for his colleagues and consequently John Carr, Liam Kavanagh and tough as teak Liam Sammon had the flags waving frequently. Outstanding for the winners were B. McCarthy, T. Gilmore, M. Gaffey, T.J. Fogarty, J. Campbell, J. Carr and L. Sammon. The scores came from T.J. Fogarty 2-3, J. Campbell 1-3, J. Carr 2-0, T. Gilmore 1-1 and L. Sammon 0-1. The winning team -

	S. Kelly	
J. Flynn	G. Gilmore	M. Gaffey
R. Gilmore	B. McCarthy	S. Glynn
	T.J. Fogarty T. Gilmore	
J. Carr	J. Campbell	L. Sammon
M. Greaney	O. McCormack	L. Kavanagh

In "Sport Spotlight" a weekly feature in the Connacht Tribune a tribute was paid to Rae Gilmore in the edition dated 1st March 1960, this is how it went.

"Rae Gilmore is 15 years old and has been playing gaelic games since he was little more than knee high. It was at St. Ignatius college where he is still a pupil that he picked up the rudiments of the games which he has since developed to a high peak of perfection. Although he made his mark as a half-back with Sarsfields on the inauguration of the City League, he had to wait until 1959 for top honours. Then he was called on to play a notable part with St. Augustines, County Football Champions and runners-up in the hurling section to Kilmacduagh. Rae's first choice of sports is football but he is more than a useful hurler. He hails from Eyre Square and is a brother of Tom Gilmore who played such a notable part in St. Mary's win over St. Joseph's on Sunday last. In a short time Rae should be well able to command as much attention as his brother does recently".

Early in March Fr. Griffins defeated St. Kierans by 2-1 to 0-3. The football was dull and uninspiring but brightened somewhat by the display of E. Kehoe, Griffins' most accomplished player. Other players to merit mention were J.J. McCraughan, K. Sexton, K. Swords and M.

Crowley with veterans F. Gaffney and J. Ward always probing for an opening. Towards the end of March Fr. Griffins had a big win over Naomh Einde winning by 3-8 to 0-1 in the West Board league. Best for Griffins were Eugene McCrohan, Eamon Kehoe, Martin Crowley, Frank Gaffney and Brian McCarthy. B. McCarthy 2-2, P. Neary 1-1, J. Ward 0-2, E. McCrohan 0-2 and E. Kehoe 0-1 scored for Fr. Griffins.

In the Senior League (County) Fr. Griffins turned in a fine performance to beat St. Michael's winning by 4-4 to 0-7. The winners had a great defence and in particular Peter O'Shea, E. McCrohan, E. Kehoe and Tom Higgins were the heroes. But it was the forward line that really came out with top marks. Paddy Dunne on the forty yard mark being the general, but the real star was last year's juvenile player Brian McCarthy who scored two great goals. Other players who came in for special mention were Dermot Blythe, Jimmy Ward, Denis O'Shea and goalkeeper Andrew Cullinane. Griffins scorers were B. McCarthy 2-1, P. Dunne 1-1, J. Ward 1-0, D. Blythe 0-1 and N. McGinn 0-1.

Fr. Griffins earned their ticket to the West Board Final when they defeated Moycullen by 5-4 to 3-5 in the semi-final. We are informed by the Sentinel that it was a dour hard struggle with Moycullen showing great pluck and little respect for the big names in Griffins' side. Outstanding for Griffins were Tom Higgins, Peter O'Shea, Kevin Sexton, Noel McGinn, Joe Young, Joe Casey, Eamon Kehoe and Jimmy Ward. The scores came from J. Ward 2-0, J. Casey 2-0, N. McGinn 1-2, J. Young 0-1 and D. O'Shea 0-1.

However, Griffins were brought down to earth when well beaten by U.C.G. in the final. Here is a report from the Connacht Tribune -

SPEEDY COLLEGE SIDE TAKE LEAGUE PRIZE
U.C.G. 1-10 FR. GRIFFINS 1-3

U.C.G. revealing all the cohesion and logic that one has come to associate with them collected the West Board League prize at the expense of Fr. Griffins before a good attendance at Pearse Stadium on Tuesday evening. To say that the game was entertaining just about sums it up for while it was spirited it was not very attractive. In the end college won on a loose rein by 1-10 to 1-3. Outstanding for U.C.G. was Martin Newell in this his finest hour. He was in his most destructive mood and if this is a true sample of his greatness he is well and truly equipped for the County Senior jersey. Of course whether he will get it is another day's work. Fr. Griffins players who came in for special mention

Fr. Griffins Galway Senior Football Champions 1967. Back row, from left: T. J. McDonagh, Michael Donnelly, Eddie Geraghty, Rae Gilmore, Christy Cunningham, Liam Sammon, Dinny O'Shea, Eddie Dunne. Front row: Pat McSharry, Gerry Mahony, Bernie Power, Colie McDonagh, Jim McMahon (Capt.), Ray Niland, Johnny Geraghty.

were Tom Higgins, Denis O'Shea, Joe Lowney, Paddy Dunne, Kevin Sexton, Eamon Kehoe, Jimmy Ward and Noel McGinn.

Editors Note: I like the piece about Martin Newell. We all know that the great hearted Martin went on to win 3 All-Irelands in a row and most important of all he was a Fr. Griffins player to boot.

Fr. Griffins were beaten in the County Championship by Ballinasloe who won by two points.

BALLINASLOE 2-10 FR. GRIFFINS 2-8

Right from the start the slow moving city side was in trouble against the fast moving Ballinasloe team. Tom Boyle and N. Ryan held the upper hand at midfield over Griffins pair Paddy Dunne and Joe Lowney. At halftime the winners led by 2-6 to 1-2. A reshuffled Griffins side faced Ballinasloe after the interval but Ballinasloe were first away to score. Fr. Griffins tried hard but could not peg back the winners. Fr. Griffins scores came from J. Lowney 1-0, J. Young 0-3, G. Driscoll 0-1, F. Gaffney 0-1, D. O'Shea 0-1, N. McGinn 0-1, P. Dunne 0-1. Fr. Griffins other goal was a deflection by a defender.

	A. Cullinane	
S. Doyle	E. McCrohan	D. O'Shea
K. Sexton	P. O'Shea	E. Kehoe
	P. Dunne J. Lowney	
T. Gilmore	J. Young	G. Driscoll
N. McGinn	F. Gaffney	K. Swords

On a happier and more pleasant note we find that in June a young man named Sean Foy was ordained to the priesthood. Fr. Sean Foy has been a staunch Fr. Griffins man for many years and is a truly great character. At time of writing he is parish priest in Liscannor.

In the Connacht Tribune of 2nd July 1960 we have Mick Sullivan in the "Sport Spotlight". I have already written about Mick in the early days of the club but in 1960 this is what they say.

"The City League season has closed and with it comes an end to our current Sport Sportlight presentation. It is fitting then that we should focus attention on one of the men behind the scenes who made for its great success.

We refer to Caherciveen-born Mick Sullivan, a stock controller with a Galway firm, whose excellent accounts of the games appeared in our issues of the Sentinel and Tribune every week throughout the League season. These reports were eagerly looked forward to by young and old for they highlighted with great accuracy the rise and fall of particular teams. Mick is a shrewd judge of up and coming players and no wonder for not alone has he played football for a considerable number of years but he has also acted in an advisory capacity to teams in many parts of Ireland. He came to Galway in 1948 and since then he has worked unceasingly for the success of Gaelic games in the city. Mick Sullivan played football with Fr. Griffins for a period and he is present Assistant Secretary of that club. He was one of the guiding lights behind St. Augustines West Board triumph and County Football victory last year. A colleague says of Mick Sullivan 'He is the backbone of the organising committee', a tribute that is most deserving".

ST. AUGUSTINES JULY 1960
ST. AUGUSTINES RECOVER AFTER SHAKY START
ST. AUGUSTINES 5-7 ST. MICHAELS 0-1

After a shaky first half St. Augustines ran out easy winners over St. Michael's in a juvenile football (West Board) tie played at South Park. Although St. Augustines enjoyed territorial advantage all through, their forwards squandered numerous scoring opportunities through bunching in the opening moiety. At halftime St. Augustines were ahead by 1-2 to 0-1. However, the second half showed Augustines in their true perspective. Seconds after the restart Pat Burke fisted home a great goal and from then to the finish it was all one way traffic with St. Augustines serving up the rank of football that brought them West Board and County titles last season. Outstanding for the winners were Cyril Fox, Pat Quinn, John Flynn, Jim Brennan, Joe Campbell, Pat and Joe Burke and Liam Sammon. The scores came from P. Burke 3-0, J. Burke 1-1, J. Campbell 0-2, F. Heaney 0-2, L. Sammon 0-2 and D. Furey 1-0.

ST AUGUSTINES WON LIKE CHAMPIONS (SEPT. 1960)

ST. AUGUSTINES 5-12 MOYCULLEN 1-3

City specialists St. Augustines gave a really first class performance by defeating Moycullen in the West Board Juvenile Final at Pearse Stadium on Sunday. Right from the word go St. Augustines threw everything they had into the game and try as Moycullen might to build up a score, they failed miserably. The losers could only muster 0-2 out of the first thirty minutes of play and with St. Augustines sitting pretty with a score of 3-9 conclusions were drawn. Best for St. Augustines were Rae Gilmore, Joe Campbell, Liam Sammon, Patsy Durnin, Frank Heaney and Tom Cantwell. Their scorers were L. Sammon 2-1, T. Cantwell 2-0, F. Heaney 1-2, J. Campbell 0-4, C. Fox 0-3, P. Durnin 0-1 and M. Greaney 0-1. This victory gave St. Augustines their third juvenile title in a row.

ST. AUGUSTINES GREAT YEAR RECALLED 29/11/60

"Stay together and ensure success" was the theme of addresses made to St. Augustines juvenile club members at their annual celebration party in the Commercial Hall during the week.

There to congratulate the Club's footballers on their juvenile football victory was Rev. R. McGóran, S.J., Chairman of the City League, Supt. T.J. Burke, Vice President Fr. Griffins, Rev. Fr. P. Lee, President Fr. Griffins and committee members of St. Augustine's Denis O'Brien (Treasurer), Mick Sullivan and Sean Turke. The West Board medals were presented by Rev. Fr. McGoran to the winning team members. Supt. Burke exhorted the team members to make greater use of the Irish language in the course of their games.

The final event of 1960 was Fr. Griffins Annual Re-union Dinner and this is a report from the Connacht Sentinel of 20th December.

FR. GRIFFINS AND ST. AUGUSTINES CELEBRATE

Players of the Fr. Griffins and St. Augustines Clubs together with organisers of the City League and Press members were present for Fr. Griffins 13th Annual social which was held in the Imperial Hotel, Galway on

Saturday. Tributes all round were paid to players of both teams but more especially to those of St. Augustines on winning the County Juvenile football title for the second year in a row. The Toast of Ireland was proposed by Mr. Con Crowley, Chairman, Fr. Griffins.

Supt. T.J. Burke proposed the toast of Fr. Griffins and St. Augustines clubs. Both had certainly done their bit for gaelic games and St. Augustines deserved great credit for bringing the juvenile titles to the city for the past two years.

Rev. P. Lee, President, Fr. Griffins, proposing the toast of both clubs said he did so with a certain amount of pride, not solely from the football angle, but in the field of social activity. Paying tribute to the officers of the clubs, Fr. Lee had a special word of praise for Paddy Higgins without whom he said there would be no Fr. Griffins Club. He coupled with his name that of Mick Sullivan and James Campbell and welcomed the young players of St. Augustines who were present at their Annual Social for the first time.

Mr. J. Fitzgerald, Editor, Connacht Tribune, replying on behalf of the guests thanked the organisers for the invitation to be present at the 13th Annual Social. He joined with Supt. Burke in congratulating St. Augustines on winning the County Juvenile Championship two years running. Saying it was a wonderful achievement, Mr. Fitzgerald asked would it be too much to expect them to record a third victory in a row as Fr. Griffins had done in their early days. He said it was good to see a number of Fr. Griffins stars of yesteryear present and mentioned especially Tom Higgins, Jimmy Ward and Mick Dowling. "They are a small but very gallant band" observed Mr. Fitzgerald. On behalf of the Press he paid tribute to Mick Sullivan for his co-operation and the manner in which he reported the progress of the City League.

Rev. J. McGoran, Chairman of the City League, thanked the committee for inviting him to be present at the social and the members who paid tribute to him for the success of Coisde na n'Og. "There would be no City League were it not for the help given by the officers of Fr. Griffins" said Fr. McGoran. He congratulated Mr. D. Leahy (unavoidably absent), the initiator of the City

League and the many workers in the background, who had made for its great success. In this respect he recalled the names of Paddy Higgins, Mick Sullivan and Con Crowley all from Fr. Griffins.

Mr. Con Crowley thanked all those who had made for the success of the social and paid tribute to the proprietors of the hotel for "excellent service".

FR. GRIFFINS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 1961

Mr. Con Crowley, outgoing Chairman, in the course of his address to a capacity gathering of old and new members of Fr. Griffins Football Club, held in the Imperial Hotel on Wednesday night last, referred to a certain element of enmity which has been creeping into the G.A.A. recently in Galway.

This was a matter which demanded the immediate attention of all as the Association was never intended for that purpose. Instead its main objective was to cement relationships on the field of play.

He congratulated the club's President Rev. P.O'Laoi on being elected Chairman of the County Board and he hoped that with his guidance the year ahead would be a most successful one for G.A.A. affairs in the county.

That grand old man of Galway football, Mr. John Cotter, who journeyed in from Inverin to be present, was also congratulated by the Chairman on being re-elected President of the county Football Board.

Continuing Mr. Crowley paid a warm tribute to St. Augustines on winning the County Juvenile Football Championship for the second successive year. "They are indeed a credit to our club and we hope they will play with the same spirit and goodwill during the coming year" he said.

Congratulations were also extended to playing members Denis O'Shea, Gene Driscoll, Joe Young and Martin Newell on being honoured by the county senior selectors and to Tom Gilmore on being selected on the Galway Minor Football and Hurling teams.

Mr. Crowley, who did not seek re-election, thanked all members for their co-operation during the year, particularly Mr. Paddy Higgins whom he described as the best secretary in any G.A.A. club in the country.

Fr. Griffin Senior Football Team that played Dunmore in the 1968 final. Back row, from left: Joe Leonard, Eddie Geraghty, Denis O'Shea, John McGinley, Brendan Reid, Rae Gilmore, Gerry Mahony, Liam Sammon. Front row: Nicholas O'Connor, Pat McSharry, Bernie Power, Jim McMahon (Capt.), Tadgh McDonagh, Tony Geraghty, Colie McDonagh.

He hoped that by the next Annual General Meeting the club would have better results in all grades.

As Rev. P. O'Laoi entered the meeting he was accorded a standing ovation by all present. He thanked the members for this kind gesture and praised Fr. Griffins for the good work they had been doing for gaelic games in the city. He hoped to give whatever assistance he could during the coming season.

Presenting his thirteenth Annual Report, the Secretary, Mr. Paddy Higgins, gave a summary of the club's achievements in the various grades during the past year. There were a record number of games played between league fixtures, West Board and challenge games. Having dealt with the fortunes of the teams, the Secretary said it was a great pleasure to be able to congratulate the juvenile footballers who for the second year running brought a county title to the club. This was also their third West Board win in a row. In this respect a word of appreciation was due to the organisers

Guinness Cup and Trophies. Front row, from left: Pat Drummond, Mick Sullivan, Guinness Rep., Paddy Higgins, Tom Higgins, Finbar Staunton. Back row: Willie Tyrrell, Liam Cunningham, T. J. Tyrrell, Gabriel Nicholsan, John Kilkelly.

and members of the City League who in no small way were responsible for the present healthy and flourishing position of the various G.A.A. clubs in Galway, particularly in Juvenile and Minor grades. "I would like to offer our sincerest congratulations to our Rev. President Fr. O'Laoi" continues the report "on his election as Chairman of the Galway County Board. We know he will guide the G.A.A. affairs of the county with distinction, and we assure him of our fullest co-operation at all times. Our annual dinner and dance was again a most enjoyable function. In this respect we have given a lead to other G.A.A. clubs in the city who now realise the importance of such an occasion when field activities are at a standstill". Having thanked Mr. and Mrs. Allen and the staff of the Imperial Hotel who have always been so helpful in accommodating the members for meetings, Mr. Higgins appealed to all members to take a greater interest in all club affairs during the year.

The Athenry Drama Group: Back row, from left: Christy Howley, Rose Ruane, Declan Whelehan, Mick Fahy, Noel O'Grady, Mick Hession. Front row: Joan Murphy, Kitty Lardner.

The Treasurer Mr. Jimmy Kilroy reported a credit balance of £21-4-4 following a year of heavy expenditure. The following officers and committee were elected for 1961 -

President - Rev. P. O'Laoi, Colaisde Einde
Vice-Presidents - William Tyrrell, Tom Gill N.T., John Cotter
Chairman - Jimmy Kilroy
Vice-Chairman - Supt. T. Burke
Secretary - Paddy Higgins
Assistant Sec. - Mick Sullivan
Treasurer - T.J. Tyrrell
Committee - S. Dunleavy, E. Kehoe, J. Ward, L. Kavanagh, O. Sammon, J. Campbell, M. Greaney
Selection Committee - D. O'Shea, M. Dowling, J. Kilroy, W. Walsh, C. Crowley
Delegates to West Board - D. Leahy, W. Walsh
Delegate to Football Board - J. Kilroy
Senior Captain - D. O'Shea
Vice-Captain - E. McCrohan
Junior Captain - O. Sammon
Vice-Captain - F. Heaney
Team Trainer - Mick Dowling

According to the Connacht Tribune of 3rd June which contained the county Senior Football Championship draws, Fr. Griffins were drawn against Milltown/Kilconly. Our researchers have failed to find a report on this game but Griffins must have won because in July we have a report on a second round game against Annaghdown.

FR. GRIFFINS ADVANCE
FR. GRIFFINS 1-6 ANNAGHDOWN 0-5

At the Kenny Memorial Stadium on Sunday last, Fr. Griffins advanced a step further in the Senior County Football championship by defeating Annaghdown. In the first half it looked as if Annaghdown were going to hold their own. The half-time score read Fr. Griffins 0-5 Annaghdown 0-2. In the first quarter of the second half two grand points from frees by Kavanagh left Annaghdown only one point behind. But a terrific goal by Frank Heaney put paid to their hopes and another point from a free by Forde left the final score Fr. Griffins 1-6 Annaghdown 0-5. Best for Griffins were

Tom Gilmore, Frank Heaney, M. Doyle and D. Sweeney.
The team was –

	N. McGinn	
M. Doyle	D. O'Shea	E. McCrohan
K. Sexton	E. Kehoe	D. Sweeney
	D. O'Shea T. Gilmore	
F. Heaney	D. Forde	D. Blythe
G. Driscoll	H. Connolly	J. Ward

Sub. J. Young for Sexton.

After this win Fr. Griffins set their sights on the championship but in the semi-final were beaten by Ballygar.

BALLYGAR INTO COUNTY FINAL (TRIBUNE 5/8/61)
BALLYGAR 1-5 FR. GRIFFINS 1-1

Ballygar qualified for the Galway Co. Senior Football final when they defeated Fr. Griffins in the semi-final played before a very small attendance at Tuam Stadium on Sunday last. The game never reached any great heights and proved a very dull encounter, indeed Fr. Griffins can blame only themselves for failing to qualify for the final. They had plenty of opportunities but their attack messed around with the ball and fumbled away opportunity after opportunity. Big difference between the sides was Mattie McDonagh's accuracy with placed balls and his four points from frees proved to be match winners for the North Galway side.

On the run of play Ballygar deserved to win but they will have to show considerable improvement if they hope to win the championship this year. Conditions – a wet sod and a greasy ball – were all against good football.

For Fr. Griffins E. Kehoe, K. Swords and S. Doyle were best in defence while O'Shea and O'Driscoll worked hard at centrefield. In attack some nice passes were laid on by Joe Young but the forwards generally wasted several good opportunities. Ballygar led at half-time by 1-3 to 1-0. Fr. Griffins goal coming from Connolly. This goal was the subject of a consultation between the referee and the umpires as the Ballygar defenders held that the ball had not crossed the line.

Fr. Griffins tale of woe continued in the second-half, when they could score only one solitary point, this score coming from D. Forde. Fr. Griffins team -

	N. McGinn	
P. Sweeney	S. Doyle	E. McCrohan
K. Sexton	E. Kehoe	K. Swords
	G. O'Driscoll D. O'Shea	
T. Gilmore	D. Forde	J. Young
G. Gilmore	H. Connolly	F. Heaney

1962

The first thing of note in January 1962 was the election of Jimmy Kilroy as Vice-Chairman with Tom Connolly (Ballyconneely) of the West Board. It was agreed at this West Board Convention to ask the County Board for a ruling on whether or not the Divisional Board could have two vice-chairmen.

In April Fr. Griffins suffered defeat at the hands of St. Michael's in a Senior League tie. In a small report on this game we are informed that

> "For the first time for many years Fr. Griffins senior footballers were defeated by another city team at South Park on Sunday morning". Almost from the start this youthful St. Michael's team set the pace and really gave a football lesson to their more experienced rivals. The St. Michael's superiority was so marked that the three Fr. Griffins points were all got from frees. Final score - St. Michaels 0-7 Fr. Griffins 0-3.

In a West Board tie played in May against U.C.G. Griffins were well beaten going down by 6-4 to 2-3. Superior skill and craft paved the way for this victory by U.C.G. In the first-half Griffins had the breeze and played wholeheartedly but on the turnover it was all one way traffic. Best players for Griffins were Denis O'Shea, Mick O'Hara, Seamus Doyle, Joe Campbell and Ray Clinton.

In the County Championship against Tuam, Fr. Griffins were again heavily defeated, here is a report from the Connacht Tribune.

FR. GRIFFINS TRY HARD BUT FAIL
30/6/62 C. TRIBUNE
TUAM STARS 4-14 FR. GRIFFINS. 0-3

Tuam Stars had little difficulty in defeating this Fr. Griffins side in their Co. Championship game played in Athenry on Sunday last. Though Griffins tried hard up

Mr. Pat Fanning, President of the G.A.A., unveiling the Plaque erected by the Club to the memory of Fr. Griffin in December, 1970. Seamus Cox, Club Chairman, looks on.

Memorial Plaque

The Plaque erected to the memory of Rev. Fr. Michael Griffin on 20th December, 1970, was one of the most colourful ceremonies ever held in the city. Mass was celebrated in the Cathedral by his Lordship Most Rev. Dr. Browne, and the parade, which included the Mayor and members of the Corporation with the Sword and Mace, members of the Fr. Griffin Club, representatives of the Old I.R.A., the relatives of Fr. Griffin, and the general public, was led by the St. Patrick's School Boy's Band. The Plaque was unveiled by Mr. Pat Fanning, President of the G.A.A., who was accompanied by the General Secretary, Mr. Seán Ó Siochain.

Eighteen years after erection this plaque mysteriously disappeared, it was later returned and is now in the possession of the Fr. Griffin Club.

to the last the Tuam men's craft and experience told. After the throw-in Fr. Griffins attacked but several shots at goal were blocked and the ball was cleared. After that the ball seldom passed centre-field where Mick Garrett and Mick Reynolds held sway. From then on it was Tuam all the way and at half-time the scoreline was Tuam 2-8 Fr. Griffins 0-0. The second half was no better for Griffins and the fulltime whistle must have sounded like sweet music to their ears. Owen Roe O'Neill had a great game in goal but had to retire due to an injury. P. Kelleher, S. Doyle and Denis O'Shea were best of the backs while Tom Gilmore and Martin Newell were always a trouble to their opposites at midfield. Frank Heaney and Donagh Forde were hardest triers in the forwards. M. O'Hara 0-1, Ray Clinton 0-1, Donagh Forde 0-1 got Griffins total of three points. The lineout was -

	O.R. O'Neill	
S. Doyle	P. Kelleher	E. Kehoe
J. McMahon	D. O'Shea	P. Sweeney
	T. Gilmore M. Newell	
F. Heaney	D. Forde	M. O'Hara
E. McCrohan	R. Clinton	O. Sammon

At the Annual General Meeting held later in the year the outgoing Chairman Jimmy Kilroy extended a welcome to the large gathering present and went on to say "During the past year we lost no fewer than seven prominent players and although replacements were difficult to find we nevertheless mustered a good selection for the Championship". It was unfortunate that the team was awarded a walk-over in the first round. Although subsequently going under to the eventual Co. Champions, Tuam Stars, all the players gave of their best. He predicted a better future for the club during the coming year as there were quite a number of minors eligible to take their places on the senior team.

The Chairman congratulated the minor players on winning the County hurling title for the second successive year and also in reaching the county final of the football grade. Congratulations were also extended to Frank Heaney and Joe Campbell who gained the unique distinction of being selected on both county minor teams, Rae Gilmore, Liam Sammon and Pat O'Toole who were also honoured by the county minor selectors and members Martin Newell and Tom Gilmore who helped in no small way to bring the Sigerson Cup back to U.C.G.

In presenting his fifteenth Annual Report to the meeting the secretary Mr. Paddy Higgins, pointed out that it would be much wiser to take serious steps to remedy shortcomings in the club. "We have the material at our disposal so lets make use of it". With an abundance of young players just out of the minor grade they could form the ideal blend with some of the more seasoned players.

ST. AUGUSTINES G.A.A. CLUB CELEBRATE COUNTY GALWAY MINOR HURLING AND FOOTBALL TITLES

The regional success of St. Augustines G.A.A. Club, Galway in winning both the Galway County Minor Football and Hurling Championships, as well as the West Galway Titles in those grades, was honoured at a dinner in the Imperial on Sunday night last (7th Jan. 1962). Tributes were paid not only to the club's players and officers but to the officers of the Galway City League and to the teachers who had co-operated with the League committee in the reviving of G.A.A. games in the city.

Mr. Paddy Higgins, a founder member of Fr. Griffins Club, parent-club of St. Augustines presided and there was an attendance of close on one hundred. Mr. Higgins welcomed the guests. He explained that the decision to name the club St. Augustines was a tribute to Rev. Fr. Killian, O.S.A., now in Dundee, Scotland. When a member of the Galway Augustinian Community and President of Fr. Griffins Club in 1957, Fr. Killian was anxious to have minor and juvenile teams formed and the formation of St. Augustines was in accordance with that aim. Fr. Killian, the Chairman said, had kept in touch with the club since then and as late as a fortnight ago he had sent best wishes for the Club's social. The success of St. Augustines, Mr. Higgins continued, was due to the work of priests, brothers and teachers of the city schools and also to the work of the City League which was formed about four years ago. He paid special tribute to Dermot Leahy now in the Ballinasloe Branch of the Munster and Leinster Bank, Rev. R. McGoran, S.J., and Mick Sullivan, "The hardest workers of all on behalf on the City League" Mr. Higgins said that as well as distinguishing themselves in football and hurling the members of the club had figured prominently in

basketball, boxing and rowing, and were doing their bit in school. There was proof of their academic successes in the various examination results. There was a round of applause when Mr. Higgins said that the secretary of the football team, Liam Kavanagh, had won three scholarships to the University. Mr. Dermot Leahy proposed the toast of the St. Augustines Club and joined in the tributes to Messrs. Mick Sullivan and Paddy Higgins because of their work for the club and for the association as a whole in Galway City. "The greatest gael in the country", that is how Mr. Leahy described Paddy Higgins and he went on to pay tribute also to Mick Sullivan, Con Crowley, Jim Kilroy, Sean Turke and Willie Walsh "and not by any means least" to Mr. John Cotter, President of the Co. Football Board who he said had taken an interest in St. Augustines from the start.

Mr. J.V. Fitzgerald, Editor of "The Connacht Tribune" joined in the tribute to officers and players and expressed the hope that St. Augustines would surpass the achievements of the parent club Fr. Griffins who had won three county championships in a row.

ST. AUGUSTINES 2–15 COIS FHARRAIGE 0–0 (MAY '62)

With effortless ease St. Augustines accounted for Cois Fharraige in a minor football tie played at Moycullen on Sunday. St. Augustines led at half-time by 1–15 to 0–0. Brilliant performances were given by Dom O'Donoghue, Rae Gilmore 0–1, Frank Heaney 0–1, Joe Campbell 1–1, Pat O'Toole 0–3, Tom Cantwell 1–2, Martin Coleman 0–4, Declan Furey 0–1 and Jim Lawlor 0–2.

ST. AUGUSTINES 2–6 RAHOON 2–4 (MAY '62)

St. Augustines and Rahoon served up some brilliant hurling in the juvenile hurling tie played at South Park on Sunday. The city lads played with great confidence and at half-time led by 1–4 to 0–1. On the change over Rahoon knuckled down to the job and entering the last quarter it was anyone's game as each side scored goals in turn. Best for the winners were Joe Leonard, John

Canon P. Glynn P.P., St. Josephs, blessing the Plaque at 2 Montpelier Tce., Sea Road, where Rev. Fr. Griffin resided prior to his murder.

HUGHES BAR,

Woodquay, Galway.

Congratulations Fr. Griffins on your Clubs 40 year history

Mickey Hughes

Kelly, Pat Walsh, Brendan O'Brien, Fahy and Rooney.

ST. AUGUSTINES 6-3 ORANMORE 4-1 (MAY '62)

Pick of last Sunday's programme at Pearse Stadium was unquestionably the Minor hurling game between St. Augustines and Oranmore. In conditions that were anything but suitable for top class hurling both sides gave a truly magnificent performance. Outstanding for the winners were Joe Campbell, Ken Garvey, Rae Gilmore, Frank Heaney, Tom Cantwell, Pat O'Toole, Joe O'Brien and Pat O'Shea. Scores came from Joe O'Brien 3-0, Pat O'Toole 2-2 and Frank Heaney 1-1.

ST. AUGUSTINES RETAIN MINOR TITLE 10/7/62
ST. AUGUSTINES 2-13 CASTLEGAR 0-1

St. Augustines had not much difficulty in defeating Castlegar in the West Board Minor Hurling Final in Pearse Stadium on Sunday last. This game never lived up to expectations and only for the brilliance of centre half forward Pat O'Toole, St. Augustines would not have won by such a sizeable tally in the finish. O'Toole had a personal tally of 2-7 but none of the other winners forwards enhanced their reputations. They had a magnificent midfield pair in Frank Heaney and Jimmy Brennan, while the backs were always reliable with Ken Garvey, Rae Gilmore, Joe Campbell and Colie McDonagh giving top class performance.

HOLDERS IN MINOR FINAL 14/8/62
ST. AUGUSTINES 5-12 KILMACDUAGH 1-6

St. Augustines with control at centrefield where Rae Gilmore and Jimmy Brennan held sway and with a brilliant half forward trio in Murt Greaney, Pat O'Toole and Liam Sammon who outclassed the defence, there was little Kilmacduagh could do to prevent the scores. Others to impress were Martin Colman, Joe O'Brien and John Higgins in the forwards, while Frank Heaney, Joe Campbell, Ken Garvey, Colie McDonagh and Ken Moran were excellent backs. The scores in the first half came from O'Toole 2-3 Greaney 1-1 and Gilmore 0-1, while in the second half Greaney 0-2, Sammon 2-0, O'Toole 0-3 and B. Reardon 0-1 were on the mark.

ANOTHER DOUBLE FOR ST. AUGUSTINES? 28/8/62

ST. AUGUSTINES 0–10 BALLINASLOE 1–2

St. Augustines are marching on in a bid to emulate their County Championship double of last year. At Athenry on Thursday evening they deservedly qualified to meet Corofin in the Co. Minor Football decider by disposing of Ballinasloe at the second attempt. Just one week earlier the city side were lucky to snatch a late equaliser after having missed numerous chances throughout the hour but they have plenty of room for improvement before they can have very high hopes of beating Corofin in the final. The winners had excellent defenders in Pat O'Toole, Rae Gilmore, Seamus Kelly and Pat Burke, a competent midfield pair in Frank Heaney and Jimmy Brennan, but of the forwards only Declan Furey, Joe Campbell and Ken Garvey caught the eye. Scorers for St. Augustines - J. Campbell 0–4, D. Furey 0–3, M. Coleman 0–1, K. Garvey 0–1, L. Sammon 0–1.

COROFIN ARE MINOR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS 4/9/62

COROFIN 0–9 ST. AUGUSTINES 0–3

High fielding, lengthy kicking and grand combination won the Galway Minor Football Championship title for Corofin at Tuam Stadium on Thursday evening, where the North Board champions defeated St. Augustines (Galway City) in the final. The winners, a big strong team, always had the edge over the hour in the game which produced very good football. St. Augustines, the holders of the title, put up a very good show but the ball never ran kindly for them due to the spoiling tactics and close marking of the Corofin boys. Nevertheless the city lads had their chances but could never capitalise on their scoring opportunities against the very solid Corofin rear guard which never yielded an inch throughout the hour. Foundation of the Corofin victory was laid at midfield where Frank Canavan and J. Glynn had an inspired hour. Glynn rose to the occasion in great style and his fielding was a treat to watch while Canavan's stylish football confirmed earlier opinions that he will be a great midfielder in the years to come. St. Augustines could have done with more weight in this

sector and had they switched Rae Gilmore to partner Frank Heaney Corofin's stranglehold on the midfield exchanges might not have been so pronounced. A great display in goal by St. Augustines Frank O'Connor denied the new champions of a major score. For St. Augustines one of the outstanding backs was Seamus Kelly who was ably assisted by Pat Burke, Pat Quinn and Rae Gilmore. While Jimmy Brennan played himself to a standstill at midfield where he partnered Frank Heaney it was obvious that more weight was required in this sector. In attack, Joe Campbell, Liam Sammon and Ken Garvey did well but Murt Greaney was too closely guarded to achieve anything of note before he retired injured in the second half. Half time score was corofin 0–4 St. Augustines 0–1. Scores came from Joe Campbell 0–2 (from frees), Frank Heaney 0–1. St. Augustines team –

	F. O'Connor	
P. Quinn	P. Burke	D. O'Donoghue
J. Flynn	R. Gilmore	S. Kelly
	F. Heaney J. Brennan	
P. O'Toole	J. Campbell	L. Sammon
M. Greaney	D. Furey	Ken Garvey

We have a report of a Fr. Griffins Junior game that took place in March '63 against Corrib Stars, a game that Griffins won easily. I would like to point out that Fr. Griffins never seemed to do well at junior level and even when the team did well the reports never seemed to appear in the press. This report seems to be an exception.

FR. GRIFFINS DEFEAT CORRIB STARS 12/3/63
FR. GRIFFINS 1–2 CORRIB STARS 0–1

In an entertaining junior football west board tie which produced some fine fare at times Fr. Griffins accounted for Corrib Stars at South Park on Sunday last. Best for Fr. Griffins were Liam Kavanagh, Joe O'Connor, Eddie Shannon, Colm O'Malley, Billy Riordan and former Cork star Finbarr Staunton. Dermot McSweeney was also in devastating form for the winners at centre-half back.

Mr. Martin Divilly, Mayor of Galway, Pat Fanning, President G.A.A., Brendan Nestor, Connacht Cuncil, Sean Ó Siochain, Secretary G.A.A. and the relatives of Fr. Michael Griffin at the unveiling.

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Congratulations Fr. Griffins

Harry Begley

FR. GRIFFINS DEFEAT WATERDALE 13/4/63
FR. GRIFFINS 3-5 WATERDALE 1-1

Fr. Griffins made further progress in the Co. Galway West Board Junior Football League when they defeated Waterdale at Pearse Stadium on Sunday last. Waterdale, playing with the strong wind were on top in the first half and led by 1-1 to 0-1 at the interval. But Fr. Griffins came into their own in the second half and slammed in three goals and four points. Outstanding for Fr. Griffins were Dermot McSweeney, Nick Murray, Pat Hennelly, Frank O'Connor, Martin Coleman and T.J. Tyrrell.

A G.A.A. CLUB IS A GREAT ASSET TO A TOWN 28/12/63

"A club like this was a great asset to any town or city Rev. P. O'Laoi, Chairman of the Galway Co. Board of the G.A.A. told members of the Fr Griffins and St. Augustines G.A.A. Annual Dinner in the Imperial Hotel, Galway.

Club Chairman, Mr. Paddy Higgins, presided and there was an attendance of over 100. After dinner a gay carnival dance took place. Playing tribute at the dinner to the memory of Mr. John Cotter, Mr. Higgins said he would always be remembered for his loyalty and support. The Club he added had lost another founder member and good supporter in Mr. Staff Lally. After the Toast of Ireland proposed by Mr. Frank Heaney, Senior Captain, had been honoured, Rev. Fr. O'Laoi proposed the toast of the association. A club like Fr. Griffins and St. Augustines was, he said, a great asset. The Club had produced All-Ireland champions, but it was a grand thing for many people that it existed. It provided pleasure for those who played the game and for those who went to see the games - and even for those who criticised. Mr. Con Crowley proposed the toast of the club and said that although they had not won trophies they had a successful year. Any club, he said, that catered for 150 players and fulfilled all its engagements deserved a certain amount of credit. Mr. Crowley paid tribute to Messrs Paddy Higgins, Jimmy Kilroy and Jimmy Ward for their work on behalf of the Club and he also paid tribute to the players. On behalf

A section of the crowd in Sea Road at the unveiling of the Plaque to Fr. Griffin. Included in this group are Club Members Fr. Seán Foy, Mick Dolan, Jim Kilroy, Dan O'Neill, Martin Newell, Liam Sammon, Colie McDonagh, Pat Drummond, Brendan O'Brien, Matthew Deane and Club President Seán Turke. Also in this group are six Mayors of Galway: Mary Byrne, Paddy O'Flaherty, Gerry Colgan, Fintan Coogan (Snr.), Paddy Ryan and Michael Smyth.

Congratulations and best wishes to Fr. Griffins

from

Patrick J. Brennan,

12A SEA ROAD, GALWAY.

of the Club he congratulated the U.C.G. team on retaining the Sigerson trophy and he mentioned that some of their own players were members of the Sigerson team - Kieran O'Connor and the Gilmore brothers. He also congratulated club members Jimmy Ward, Denis O'Shea, Vincent Gorman and Michael McSweeney on their marriages during the year.

MULTIPLE CHAMPIONS CELEBRATE VICTORY 8/1/1963

Five Galway County Championships within three years that is the proud achievement of St. Augustines, Hurling and Football, club. It was with that boast and with a handsome display of silver cups won on the field that the Club's officers, players and friends met for their second Annual Dinner in the Imperial Hotel on Sunday night.

The Club won the 1962 County Minor Hurling Championship and lost to Corofin in the final of the County Minor Football championship and on the way to the two finals won the West Galway titles in both codes.

Mr. Paddy Higgins, Chairman of the club, presided and having expressed the club's pride in achievements he welcomed the big attendance, particularly the parents. He congratulated Frank Heaney and Joe Campbell on being selected on both county minor hurling and football teams. Their Captain, Rae Gilmore, had also been selected on the Co. Football team and might have made the hurling side but for examinations. Liam Sammon, Jimmy Brennan, Murt Greaney and Pat O'Toole had also been honoured by the County Football selectors. On the athletic front Johnny Flynn had won the Connacht Colleges 880 and 440 while Murt Greaney had won the Colleges Intermediate 440.

MINORS IN DRAW 2/7/1963

ST. AUGUSTINES 1-4 NAOMH MACDARA 1-4

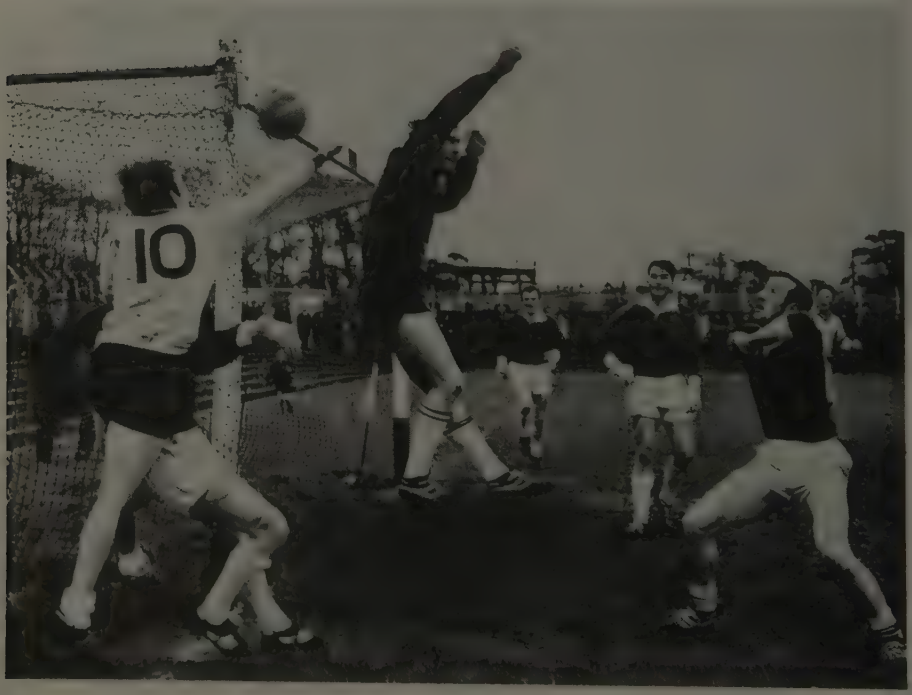
St. Augustines drew with Naomh Mac Dara in the minor football championship. The standard of football was high. The sides were level at half-time 1-2 each. The Carraroe defence held the Augustines forwards very well. Best for St. Augustines were - in defence K.

Garvey, M. Coleman and S. Kelly, and in the forwards Pat O'Toole and M. Greaney. Scorers for Augustines were P. O'Toole 0-3, M. Greaney 1-0 and G. McNamara 0-1.

ST. AUGUSTINES HAD EASY WIN AT SOUTH PARK

ST. AUGUSTINES 1-12 COIS FHARRAIGE 1-2

Although winning this game by ten points Minor Football Champions St. Augustines looked anything but impressive. Augustines had an ace forward in Pat O'Toole. Repeatedly the St. Mary's stalwart won possession and his personal tally of 1-7 speaks for itself. The same cannot be said of his colleagues who failed to click as a unit, and his highly-rated scoring machine broke down. Best for the winners were full-back Ken Garvey and left-half Sean Conroy while Ger McNamara had a fairly good game at midfield.



Action from Co. Final v. Corofin in 1970. Goalkeeper John McGinley, Denis O'Shea with arms outstretched, Christy Cunningham with hand on hips, and Tom Sands running in to help.

Just as this club history was being prepared for publication we received material pertaining to the great St. Augustine's Team in both hurling and football. We have reproduced these under the heading – The Era of the "Gorgeous Gussies". Some of the matches may be mentioned elsewhere in this book, but we do not begrudge these great young players "double exposure".

Editor

THE ERA OF THE "GORGEOUS GUSSIES"

St. Augustines great win over Corofin in the 1959 County Juvenile Football final was the forerunner of many great victories for the Fr. Griffin youngsters. In the space of three years the "Gorgeous Gussies" as they were christened by that doyen of sportswriters, the late Johnny McMahon of the old Galway Observer, collected no fewer than five county titles in the juvenile and minor hurling and football grades. Add to that number as many if not more trophies collected from West Board engagements. The juvenile team that started that run of successes when beating Corofin by four points in a hectic final at Athenry was captained by Joe Campbell from Terryland and the other players to make up the team were Jimmy Kelly, Johnny Flynn, Liam Kavanagh, Conny Ryan, Rae Gilmore, Frank Heaney, T.J. Fogarty, Liam Sammon, Murt Greaney, Brian McCarthy, Olly Mc Cormack, Gay Gilmore. Eight of the team were on the hurling side which won the West Board Juvenile hurling championship and were beaten by a point in the county final against Kilmacduagh. The latter were later disqualified for fielding an illegal team. In the county semi-final Augustines made history by snatching the laurels from Turloughmore a side steeped in hurling. Prior to that encounter they captured the West Board title after a great tussle with Oranmore.

St. Augustines 2–8 Oranmore 1–2

This game was a thriller with the standard of hurling exceptionally high. St. Augustines however well deserved their victory as their forwards, particularly the half-forward trio took their scoring chances well. The back division too proved too strong for the opposing forwards especially in the second half when the Oranmore boys were throwing all they knew into the game.

A feature of the St. Augustines win was the grand display of their centre half-forward Murt Greaney who scored a goal and four points of his sides total. One of his points in the closing stages sent over from the sideline at a very acute angle was accuracy personified. Next in line for mention on the winning side was their full back and captain Joe Campbell who saved his lines with lengthy clearances when Oranmore

pressure was greatest. Centre back Joe Burke and the 'corner boys' Cyril Fox and Seamus Kelly were also very much to the fore.

Frank Heaney and Rae Gilmore were a strong centrefield partnership – the latter scoring two good points from long range. Hardest workers in the forward division in addition to Murt Greaney were Liam Sammon and Frank Heaney. Scorers for the winners – M. Greaney 1–4, R. Gilmore 0–2, J. Cullinane 1–0, J. Flynn 0–1, F. Heaney 0–1. After the match Joe Campbell was presented with the cup by Jim Hehir, Chairman of the West Board who complimented both sides for their grand display.

St. Augustines 3–5 Turloughmore 3–1

Two weeks later in the county juvenile hurling semi-final Augustines emulated the feat of their footballers by winning their way to the county final after a classic encounter with Turloughmore at Athenry.

Indeed the winners success was far more convincing than the score suggests as they held a comfortable lead for 40 minutes of the game. It was only in the closing stages that the losers made the scoreline respectable with two major scores from goalmouth melees.

Heavy rain which in most cases would have caused the abandonment of many a game dampened in no way the spirits of the contestants and the small crowd who braved the elements were well rewarded. A great centrefield pairing of Frank Heaney and Gay Gilmore, aided and abetted by a sure striking hard tackling defence, plus the genius of Murt Greaney on the 40 won the day for St. Augustines. In attack Liam Sammon, Michael Berry and Frankie Heaney also shone. Whenever Turloughmore threatened Cyril Fox who hurled like a demon at right full, Johnny Flynn, Joe Campbell, Joe Burke and Seamus Kelly always drove them back. Ten minutes from the end the losers sprang to life urged on by the cheers of their large following but their effort came too late and the city side finished worthy winners.

Scorers for the winners – M. Greaney 2–3, F. Heaney 0–2, F. Brennan 1–0.

Minors to the Fore

Having graduated to minor ranks the entire panel were again to the fore in 1961 but this time they went one step further and made their own bit of history by winning the double at both West Board and County level. Having disposed of Naomh MacDara (Carraroe) rather easily on the score 3–8 to 0–0 in the West Football Final they qualified to meet Dunmore in the Co. Semi-Final at Athenry. This game was described by many as the best performance ever given by the 'Gussies'.

St. Augustines 5–8 Dunmore 4–6

After a disastrous start in which they found themselves 3–3 to 0–1 in arrears St. Augustines fought back at the Kenny Memorial Park Athenry to reach the final of the Co. Minor football championship. Dunmore's Ray Charles and Tommy Keenan played havoc with the city lads early on and it was their good work which really worried the Fr. Griffin youngsters. Gradually the 'Gussies' settled down and goals by T.J. Fogarty and Frankie Heaney followed by a Liam Sammon point had them in the running and only four points behind at half time. Second half goals by Murt Greaney, Declan Furey and Joe Campbell plus points by Tom Gilmore and Jimmy Brennan sealed Dunmore's fate. Tom Gilmore and Frank Heaney won midfield for the city side and here the foundation for victory was laid. The half-back line of Johnny Flynn, Rae Gilmore and Pat O'Toole improved after a shaky start and Connie Ryan was best of the fulls. All the forwards played their parts. Charles and Keenan were Dunmore's stars and backs T. Ryder, M. Howley and T. Nestor did their bit. L. O'Brien battled alone at midfield and R. Varley and T. Lyons were others to try hard for the McHales. Five days later they contested the final against Fohenagh at Ballinasloe.

St. Augustines 4–7 Fohenagh 1–1

Without unduly extending themselves St. Augustines captured the Minor Co. Football crown from Fohenagh at Ballinasloe and thus maintained their unbeaten run of successes in both codes for the season.

This was not a game for the football purist and if anything it fell far below the standard expected in a county final. Even when playing into a strong breeze in the opening half the city side with the exception of an early lapse which cost them a goal never looked like being in trouble. As a matter of fact they played their best football in this half and when the interval came they were seven points in front.

An early goal shortly after the resumption sealed the issue for St. Augustines and from then to the final whistle the proceedings resembled an exhibition rather than a championship decider. To their credit Fohenagh tried hard at times to work the ball upfield but apart from four or five individuals they were badly equipped for the task on hand.

Fohenagh showed distinct promise early on when Paddy O'Brien (not the Editor) outwitted the Augustines defence to score a good goal. Points from Murt Greaney and Pat Burke followed and then the losers had their only other score when Fintan Glynn pointed from a free. Augustines replied with goals from Pat Burke, Murt Greaney and Declan Furey.

With the wind in their favour in the second half St. Augustines had the monopoly of play. Pat Burke had his second goal, Murt Greaney added

1970 County Champions. Photo in Programme taken for semi-final. Back row, from left: Liam Sammon, Jim McMahon, Liam McGauran, John McGinley, Christy Cunningham, Denis O'Shea, Ray Niland, Tom Sands. Front row, from left: Eddie Geraghty, Eddie Dunne, Colie McDonagh, Emmet Farrell (Capt.), John Newell, Tony Geraghty, Denis Flynn.

three more minors and Joe Campbell pointed twice from frees to make the full time tally St. Augustines 4–7, Fohenagh 1–1.

Outstanding in the winners side were defenders Pat O'Toole, Rae Gilmore and Pat Quinn, midfielders Tom Gilmore and Frank Heaney and forwards Pat Burke, Murt Greaney, Joe Campbell and Jimmy Brennan. Before the game a two minutes silence was observed as a mark of respect to the late Jim Brennan. Rev. P. Mahon presented the magnificent McHugh Cup to Frank Heaney, captain of St. Augustines.

	Jimmy Kelly (goal)	
Connie Ryan	Gay Gilmore	Pat Quinn
Johnny Flynn	Rae Gilmore	Pat O'Toole
	Frank Heaney (Capt.) Tom Gilmore	
Joe Campbell	Jimmy Brennan	Liam Sammon
Declan Furey	Pat Burke	Murt Greaney

Minor Hurling

To complete a notable minor double St. Augustines marched through the West and had little difficulty in overcoming Moycullen in the divisional final on the score St. Augustines 5–6, Moycullen 2–1.

With fourteen of the side which had won the West football title St. Augustines collected their second cup within a week when their minor hurlers defeated Moycullen in the West Board final in a hard fought but cleanly contested game at Pearse Stadium. While the wind and rain did not make for good hurling the greatest deterrent of all was the exceedingly close marking and blocking down which gave players little time to adorn their work.

The opening twenty minutes gave no indication that the city boys would win. Out-hurled through most of the field by a plucky Moycullen side they seemed slow and cumbersome but the advantage gained by their opponents was not reflected on the score sheet. Six minutes from half time Jimmy Brennan fired over St. Augustines first point. This score gave the city lads the confidence they needed. Murt Greaney with an opportunist goal just on the stroke of half time left them sitting pretty at the recess.

With the wind and rain behind them in the second half Augustines hurled with far greater confidence. Inside five minutes Pat O'Toole who was the winners best forward equalised with a terrific drive to the net. The same player repeated the performance minutes later and although the winners went from strength to strength there were times when Moycullen made great efforts to stage a comeback.

The winners goalkeeper Pat O'Neill was fronted by a fine full-back line of Joe Campbell, Connie Ryan and 'Staff' Cullinane. But it was the

half-back trio of Johnny Flynn, Frank Heaney and Liam Kavanagh who broke up most of the losers attacks. Tom and Rae Gilmore dominated the midfield scene in the second half and Pat O'Toole, Jimmy Brennan and Murt Greaney earned the honours in attack.
Scorers for Augustines - P. O'Toole 3-1, M. Greaney 1-0, T. Cantwell 1-0, J. Brennan 0-3, F. Heaney 0-2.
St. Augustines - P. O'Neill (goal), J. Campbell, S. Cullinane, C. Ryan, J. Flynn (capt.), F. Heaney, L. Kavanagh, R. Gilmore, T. Gilmore, M. Greaney, P. O'Toole, L. Sammon, E. Hardiman, J. Brennan, T. Cantwell.

After the game West Board Chairman Mr. Seamus Hehir presented the Pierce Cup to Johnny Flynn, captain of the winning side.

St. Augustines 10-8 Athenry 3-2

St. Augustines qualified for the Minor hurling final by virtue of a twenty-seven point margin over Athenry played at the latter's home venue. Don't get the impression that the homesters were easy pie. The had some beautiful strikers, good positional hurlers. John Fahy, Morgan Healy, Tony Coffey in the backs, Pat Waldron at midfield and Gabriel Gardiner and Seamus Clarke in the forwards were as good caman wielders as you'd find anywhere. But the city boys had the superior teamwork and speed and those qualities were the winning ones. Lads like Rae and Tom Gilmore at midfield, Joe Campbell, Connie Ryan and Stephen Cullinane in the full-back line, Liam Kavanagh at left half and the entire forward division, notably Pat O'Toole, Murt Greaney, Jimmy Brennan and Tommy Cantwell.

It was Athenry who set the pace which they could not maintain subsequently. Gabriel Gardiner banged home a goal from a 21 yards free after five minutes and only sound defensive work saved the city citadel for the next few minutes with Joe Campbell in brilliant form. Then Pat O'Toole got on his bicycle. He whammed in two great goals and a point and Tommy Cantwell added a goal before O'Toole added another minor. Liam Sammon and Tom Gilmore tacked on further goals. But the fight was not gone out of Athenry. Pressure was rewarded with a 21 yards free and Joe Mannion found the back of the net. Murt Greaney replied with a city point but Athenry fought back for a Morgan Healy goal. Jimmy Brennan added a point and Rae Gilmore lobbed a long range goal. It was 6-4 to 3-0 at the interval.

Pat O'Toole pointed a free on resumption and Tom Gilmore goaled. Athenry's only reply came with two points from Gardiner. From that onwards it was Augustines here, there and everywhere. O'Toole, a point, Greaney, a point, O'Toole 1-1, Brennan 1-0, Gay Gilmore who came on as a sub, a fine goal, put the Fr. Griffin youngsters into the

final against Woodford who shocked Gort into defeat in a second semi-final at the same venue.

St. Augustines 4–5 Woodford 2–3

St. Augustines, the team which swept through the county beating all comers by cricket scores met their toughest opposition in the county minor hurling final at rain drenched Pearse Stadium. Woodford, the East Board champions, were worthy opponents and for a long period looked like upsetting all the forecasts. The conditions did not suit the faster St. Augustines but to show the stuff of which champions are made they overcame everything and with superior fitness in the closing stages hammered home a good victory. Overall it was team work and an abandonment of the first half picking-the-ball tactics which won the day for the city team. It was a great day for the young club. These youngsters from Fr. Griffins made history and for a dozen or so of the players victory on Sunday meant two county championship medals in the one year.

Once again the foundation of victory was laid at midfield where Tom Gilmore who surrendered the chance of winning an All Ireland Junior football medal by turning out for his club and his brother Rae dominated the exchanges. It was they who laid on the second-half service which was to wreck Woodford hopes.

In the backs little Joe Campbell was again the sheet anchor of the side. His fine clearances and nippy runs to the wing broke up many an Eastern ambition. Stephen Cullinane played his part at full back and Frankie Heaney compensated for a mediocre game in Athenry by leading the defence from centre-half.

Without doubt the most successful forward on this occasion was Tom Cantwell. Big Tom knew the shortest route to goal, grabbed every opportunity and was unlucky on at least two other occasions in not scoring. Pat O'Toole put his name on three points and the speed of Jimmy Brennan was a thorn in the losers side all through. Murt Greaney laboured against Stanley but the inclusion of Gay Gilmore in the second half was a master stroke. He aided and abetted Cantwell to the fullest and played a big part in the victory. Scorers for the winners were T. Cantwell 2–0, G. Gilmore 1–0, R. Gilmore 1–0, P. O'Toole 0–3 and M. Greaney 0–2.

Team –

Pat O'Neill

Joe Campbell — Stephen Cullinane — Connie Ryan

Johnny Flynn (capt.) — Frank Heaney

Liam Kavanagh — Tom Gilmore — Rae Gilmore

Murt Greaney — Pat O'Toole — Jimmy Brennan

Joe O'Brien — James Kelly — Tom Cantwell

Sub. Gay Gilmore replaced J. Kelly in the second half.

1962 – A Year of Mixed Fortunes

In the 1962 West Board Minor Football championship title holders St. Augustines successfully defended their titles despite a gallant challenge from city rivals St. Kiarans at Renmore on Easter Monday evening. Heavy rain in the afternoon looked like spoiling this eagerly awaited pairing and although the teams were forty-five minutes late taking the field, patrons who braved the elements were more than compensated for in an hour of glorious and at times classic football. Final score was St. Augustines 2-6 St. Kierans 2-3. From the word go both sides settled down to serious business and at times one would be pardoned for thinking that a county final was in progress rather than a first round tie.

Seconds after the throw-in Frank Heaney put Augustines one point up with a fine effort from a placed ball. Eamonn Lynch with a similar effort levelled at the other end. Then Pat O'Toole (Augustines) and Michael Roche (Kierans) swapped goals before O'Toole had the winners second major after a fine forward passing movement. Kierans had a chance of equalising minutes later when they were awarded a penalty but Lynch's spot kick was held and cleared by Terry Small. Brennan and Eamonn Lynch tacked on two further minors for Kierans to leave only point separating the sides at half time.

Augustines playing with great dash and determination on the change-over dictated the exchanges for lengthy periods but the finishing of their forwards was not on a par with their approach work. Only exception being Liam Sammon who capped a great display by notching four points in this period. Murt Greaney who came on after the interval added another. Kierans fought back gallantly in the closing stages and just on the stroke of time Tom Kenny drove a bullet to the net to leave three points separating the sides. Most prominent for the winners were Terry Small, Pat Burke, Pat Quinn, Johnny Flynn, Frank Heaney, Pat O'Toole, Joe Campbell, Liam Sammon and Jimmy Brennan. Best for the losers - Michael Roche, Tom Kenny, Lorcan O'Rourke, Carl Reid, Andy Darcy, Eamon Lynch and Colm McDonagh.

Tom Kenny is today the well known writer in the Galway Advertiser.

In the county semi-final St. Augustines survived a drawn game with Ballinasloe and eventually qualified to meet Corofin in the final.

St. Augustines 0–10 Ballinasloe 1–2

Just one week earlier the city side were lucky to snatch a late equaliser after having missed numerous chances throughout the hour. In the replay St. Augustines totted up ten wides in the first half. At least half of them could have been scores but erratic shooting plus a wonderful display of net minding by Ballinasloe's Ronnie Madden kept their tally down to seven points at the short whistle. The losers, who played against a strong breeze in this half failed to raise a flag. The exchanges were hectic in the second half as Ballinasloe made an all-out effort to reduce the leeway. However good work by Brennan and Heaney at midfield and a stonewall defence saved the day for the winners who added a further three points to their half time tally. L. Cullen 1–1 and L. Commerton 0–1 replied for the losers. The winners had excellent defenders in Pat O'Toole, Rae Gilmore, Seamus Kelly and Pat Burke, a competent midfield pair in Frank Heaney and Jimmy Brennan but of the forwards only Declan Furey, Joe Campbell and Ken Garvey caught the eye.

Scorers for Augustines – J. Campbell 0–4, D. Furey 0–3, M. Coleman 0–1, K. Garvey 0–1, L. Sammon 0–1.

Magnificent Gussies Swamp Cashel in Hurling Decider
St. Augustines 2–13 Castlegar 0–1

In a somewhat disappointing West Board Minor Hurling Final St. Augustines (the holders) easily accounted for Castlegar on the above score. This game never lived up to expectations and only for the brilliance of centre half forward Pat O'Toole I doubt if Augustines would have won by such a sizeable tally in the finish. O'Toole excepted (he had a personal tally of 2–7) none of the other winners' forwards enhanced their reputations. Time out of number they were presented with gift chances but instead of having a go they fumbled or drove hopelessly wide. In the other vital departments, the winners were well on top. They had a magnificent midfield pair in Frank Heaney and Jimmy Brennan while their backs were always reliable with Ken Garvey, Rae Gilmore, Joe Campbell and Colie McDonagh giving top class performances.

St. Augustines who led by 2–9 to 0–0 at half-time had their scores from P. O'Toole (2–7), L. Sammon (0–3), F. Heaney (0–1), R. Gilmore (0–1) and M. Coleman (0–1).

After the game Mr. Seamus Hehir the West Board Chairman presented the cup to the winners captain Joe Campbell.

Fr. Griffin's Club Annual Dinner 1971. Back row, from left: Sean Lawless, Finbarr Staunton, Rev. Fr. Sean Foy, Joe D'Arcy, Tom Higgins, Mick Dowling, Pat McSharry, Jim Kilroy, Liam Sammon, Ned Mulholland, Colie McDonagh. Front row: John Flaherty, Seamus Cox, Sean Turke, Brendan O'Brien, Paddy Higgins, Mick Sullivan.

Augustines Through to Co. Final

St. Augustines had an easy passage to the county minor hurling final by virtue of their big win over Kilmacduagh at Kinvara.

St. Augustines 5–12 Kilmacduagh 1–6

Although Kilmacduagh were first to score when John Commins notched an early point they could never afterwards match their crafty opponents whose forwards inspired by a brilliant Murt Greaney were in sparkling form. The city side led at the interval by 3–5 to 1–2. Although Kilmacduagh rallied in the second half they lacked the craft and finish of the Gussies half-forward line of Murt Greaney, Pat O'Toole and Liam Sammon. Others to do well for the winners were Joe Campbell, Seamus Kelly, Frank Heaney, Rae Gilmore, Jimmy Brennan and Colie McDonagh. Scorers for the winners were P. O'Toole 1–6, L. Sammon 2–2, M. Greaney 1–2, J. O'Brien 1–0, R. Gilmore 0–1 and B. Riordan 0–1.

For the second successive year St. Augustines (the holders) were in another county minor hurling final. Their opponents Turloughmore came from a parish steeped in hurling tradition.

Heaney's Great Hour
St. Augustines 4–9 Turloughmore 2–5

St. Augustines with twelve of the defeated football finalists in their lineout retained the county hurling minor title at Pearse Stadium on Sunday by defeating a fancied Turloughmore side in a game that provided some fast and exciting fare. A lively first half saw Turloughmore dictate the exchanges for the opening ten minutes and after Coffey and O'Toole had exchanged points Paddy Long gave Turloughmore the lead with a great goal. In a see-saw struggle points were exchanged but just before the interval goals by Sammon and O'Toole left the holders leading by one goal at the short whistle.

The holders big bid to retain the cup came midway through the second half. After Coffey had reduced their advantage to four points when he goaled directly from a free, Murt Greaney gained possession from the puckout and his long drive beat the Turloughmore custodian all ends up for a tonic goal. Pat O'Toole had the best goal of the game minutes later and from then on the city lads were never seriously troubled. Star of the winning side was unquestionably Frank Heaney. He put in a tremendous hours work and completely mastered the losers shining hope Frank Coffey.

Next in order of merit was Murt Greaney who showed a clean pair of heels to the opposition on more than one occasion. His goal midway through the second half was well timed and badly needed at that stage.

In the full back line Joe Campbell stole the honours with a fine display of cool calculated stick work while little behind him in this sector were Ken Garvey, Colie McDonagh and Seamus Kelly. Rae Gilmore, although severely harassed at times, had a sound game all through at midfield while his partner Jimmy Brennan has never played better. In a lively attack Pat O'Toole, Liam Sammon and substitutes Joe Cullinane and Billy Riordan rendered sterling service to speed merchant Greaney. Scorers for St. Augustines were Pat O'Toole 2–3, Liam Sammon 1–3, Murt Greaney 1–1, Joe Cullinane 0–1 and Jimmy Brennan 0–1. Referee – Mr. A. Higgins.

Fr. Griffin's Under-21 Co. Football Champions 1971. Back row, from left: Murt Jones, Jody Moran, Kevin McDonagh, Johnny Faherty, Pat Sands, John Lowery, John McGinley. Front row: Miko Nolan, Ray McDonagh, John Walsh, Brendan O'Brien, Emmett Farrell (Capt.), Johnny Newell, John Creaven, Vincent O'Malley.

Congratulations to Fr. Griffins on your great record and best of luck for the next 40 years

from an old colleague

Canon Padraic O'Laoi P.P.,

Ennistymon

CHAPTER 6

Champions Again

Fr. Griffins had high expectations for 1964 but in their first game against old rivals St. Michaels they were anything but impressive. St. Michaels won this game very easily.

MICHAELS ON TOP IN CLASH OF CITY SIDES
18/2/1964
ST. MICHAELS 6–4 FR. GRIFFINS 1–3

With superior team work and speed St. Michaels over ran their keen city rivals, Fr. Griffins by sixteen points in an entertaining Senior Football League game at bitterly cold Pearse Stadium on Sunday. Complete first half domination when facing a stiff breeze left them leading by 5–3 to 1–0 at half time, but they had a much harder fight in the second period when the exchanges were quite lively. For a sporting Fr. Griffins side John McDonagh, Rae Gilmore, Frank Heaney, John Jennings and "Tansey" Lyons were hardest workers and the scores came from Lyons, the ex-Mayo player, 1–0, Jennings 0–2 and Fanning 0–1.

WEST BOARD WINTER LEAGUE 21/3/1964
CLONBUR 1–9 FR. GRIFFINS 0–8

Badly hit by flu and injuries Fr. Griffins put up a fine performance against a strong Clonbur team. Against the breeze in the first half they defended heroically and were led by four points to three at the break. Play was scrappy in the opening half but Griffins improved in the second half and were helped by the advent of Frank Heaney, who had already played for Galway against Sligo. Hardest workers for Griffins were Frank Heaney, L. Sammon, M. Greaney and J. Connor.

SURPRISE WIN FOR GRIFFINS IN LEAGUE
14/4/1964
FR. GRIFFINS 2–9 ST. MICHAELS 2–4

Fr. Griffins created an upset in the first round of the Senior League at Pearse Stadium on Sunday when they beat their keen local rivals St. Michaels in a close struggle. This was their first success over their city rivals in a considerable time, a win they richly deserved.

Main reason for their win was the first class performance of Galway County star Martin Newell at centre-back. He had a "brilliant" second half and saved his side when Michaels launched an all out final rally. Frank Heaney was in good form at midfield while Denis O'Shea was a power in the back-line. In attack Liam Sammon and "Tansey" Lyons won the honours. Griffins tally came from John Jennings 2-1, Tansey Lyons 0-1, E. Dunne 0-4, Frank Heaney 0-2 and Liam Sammon 0-1.

In the County Championship Fr. Griffins had a big win over Ballygar.

CITY SIDE FAR TOO SPEEDY FOR BALLYGAR IN TAME TIE 18/7/64

FR. GRIFFINS 3-9 BALLYGAR 0-6

Fr. Griffins were always too fleet-footed for their opponents and with a little more accuracy in the forwards could have won by a much wider margin. The bigger proportion of the winning side are very young and with more experience will be a force to be reckoned with in the future. Best for the winners were K. O'Connor at full back, Denis O'Shea who had a great game at centre half-back, Tom and Rae Gilmore, L. Sammon and B. Reid.

Fr. Griffins led at half-time by 2-4 to 0-5 and were completely on top in the second half. Scorers for Fr. Griffins were Sammon, Reid, Gilmore, Heaney and Niland. Fr. Griffins team -

	E. Barry	
C. Reid	K. O'Connor	P. Sweeney
N. Murray	D. O'Shea	C. McDonagh
	T. Gilmore E. Dunne	
R. Gilmore	F. Heaney	L. Sammon
R. Niland	B. Reid	T. Lyons

GRIFFINS BEAT OUGHTERARD'S FANCIED TEAM 29/8/64

FR. GRIFFINS 2-6 OUGHTERARD 1-5

In the first round of the West Board Senior Champion-ship played in heavy rain in Pearse Stadium on

Sunday evening Fr. Griffins defeated a fancied Oughterard selection. Though missing two of their stars L. Sammon and R. Gilmore, Griffins made light work of their rivals and emerged just winners. Scorers for Fr. Griffins were E. Barry 1-0, T. Lyons 1-1, F. Heaney 0-3, R. Niland 0-1, B. Reid 0-1.

Before the year was out Fr. Griffins took their first ever West Board Senior Football title. It is really amazing that Fr. Griffins who had some great teams over the years had to wait so long to win this trophy.

FR. GRIFFINS 5-4 MOYCULLEN 2-3
FIRST EVER WEST BOARD TITLE 12/12/64
GRIFFINS SMASH 16 YEARS OLD HOODOO

Fr. Griffins overcame a sixteen year hoodoo when they won the West Board Senior Football Final for the first time ever at Pearse Stadium on Sunday. Although the city side captured the County Cup and League on a number of occasions this was one trophy they never previously possessed.

Considering the appalling conditions this was a rousing game from start to finish and although Griffins were deserving winners their margin of ten points was somewhat flattering. Moycullen who had their best season ever made a gallant fight back in the second half but could find no gap in the Griffins defence where Kieran O'Connor having his best game ever, and ex-Jarlaths player Colie McDonagh were in excellent form. All in all this was the best team to represent Fr. Griffins in years. Joe Lynham had a faultless game but he must give most of the credit to backs Paddy Sweeney, Kieran O'Connor and Colie McDonagh who covered him expertly throughout the hour. Midfielders Rae Gilmore and Ray Niland did some good work at times while pick of a great scoring unit were Liam Sammon, Frank Heaney and Tansey Lyons. Chairman of the West Board Mr. Donal Killeen presented the cup to that great allrounder Frank Heaney, Captain of Fr. Griffins.

History making team –

	J. Lynham	
J. McMahon	P. Sweeney	C. O'Malley
D. O'Shea	K. O'Connor	C. McDonagh
	R. Gilmore R. Niland	
E. Dunne	F. Heaney (Capt.)	L. Sammon
J. O'Connell	N. Murray	T. Lyons

Sub.P. Logan for N. Murray

In the Connacht Sentinel dated 11th August in the sports section, titled "Spotlight on Connacht" by Jimmy Lydon, we find that Fr. Griffins own Jimmy Ward a co-founder of the club is honoured. This is what Jimmy Lydon has to say –

SPORTS PERSONALITY

Meet Jimmy Ward, the former Galway football star, who has been hitting the high spots in greyhound racing circles of late. His very speedy dog, Little Sham, won the July Sweepstake – £200 at the Galway Track and won another valuable race at the same venue on August Monday. Westmeath born Jimmy came to Galway via Limerick in 1947. He was one of the principals in the formation of the Fr. Griffins G.A.A. Club in the city in 1948 and led the club to victory in the Senior Football Championship of that year. He also captained the Fr. Griffins teams who retained the Senior Championship in 1949 and 1950 to complete a notable hattrick. He was also a member of the team which won the Galway Senior League in 1953. The Fr. Griffins stalwart graduated from the County Junior team to the County Senior side and has given his adopted county sterling service both as a player and as an administrator. Popular Jimmy Ward recently left his position with Maxwell McNamara and Co. to take up a post with Harp Lager – his former workmates presented him with a watch – and his many friends will wish him every success in his new job.

ST. AUGUSTINES SLAM COUNTY CHAMPIONS
21/7/64
ST. AUGUSTINES 7–11 ORANMORE 2–8

St. Augustines showed remarkable form when dethroning County Champions Oranmore in the West Board Minor Hurling semi-final at Pearse Stadium. There was little between them in the opening half as each side scored in turn. Five minutes from the break the winners edged out in front following a spectacular goal by Pat. O'Toole but seconds later Oranmore equalised. In the second half Augustines really hit top form, with points from O'Rourke and O'Toole they took over completely and dominated the play. Best for the winners who now meet Castlegar in the final were Pat O'Toole, Lorcan O'Rourke, Ken Garvey, Tadgh McDonagh, Con Cunnane, Brendan O'Brien, Michael Cummins.

WEST BOARD MINOR HURLING TITLE FOR CASTLEGAR
1/8/64
CASTLEGAR 4–8 ST. AUGUSTINES 4–4

In one of the best hurling games seen at Pearse Stadium for quite some time, Castlegar captured the Minor hurling West Board title from St. Augustines. The dramatic start, with the city boys a goal up in less than a minute set the pace for a surging exhibition which had a large attendance on tenterhooks to the final whistle. Less than a minute later Castlegar were on terms, again St. Augustines forged ahead and again were pegged back. Then Cashel hit the front again but had the lead wrested from them by two great goals from the losers, who finished up the half one point in front 3–1 to 2–3. The pattern of play was much the same in the second half, with each side swopping scores as play surged from one end of the pitch to the other. The winners success was due largely to their speed and ground play. They also laid their foundations of victory at midfield where John Connolly was in brilliant form and gave his forwards a plentiful supply of the ball. Hard triers for St. Augustines were Ken Garvey, Pat O'Toole, Lorcan O'Rourke, Con Cunnane, Matthew Conroy and Ger Maloney. The scores for St. Augustines

Club Social 1970/'71. Back row, from left: Mick Sullivan, Tom Higgins, Henry O'Connor, Pat McSharry, Paddy Higgins, Jim Kilroy, Mick Dolan. Front row: Tadgh McDonagh, Rev. Fr. Sean Foy, Seamus Cox (Chairman), Tony Geraghty, Emmet Farrell.

The Fr. Griffin's defence has this team attack well under control. Griffins players are Tom Sands, Christy Cunningham, Colie McDonagh, John McGinley.

came from P. O'Toole 1-2, G. Maloney 2-0, B. O'Brien 1-0, K. Garvey 0-1 and L. O'Rourke 0-1.

St. Augustines had some revenge for this defeat when they beat Castlegar two weeks later at juvenile level.

ST. AUGUSTINES WIN JUVENILE HURLING TITLE
15/8/64
ST. AUGUSTINES 5-6 CASTLEGAR 3-3

St. Augustines beat the fancied holders, Castlegar, in the Juvenile Co. Galway West Board Hurling Final on Saturday. In a fast and furious game, which was at times very exciting, St. Augustines beat the holders by sheer skill and by their speed in taking the chances as they came. At half-time the score read Castlegar 2-1 St. Augustines 1-3. In the second half St. Augustines moved J. Connery from the backline to the forwards, took complete control and never looked back. J. Connery was the star of the game. Scores came from K. Doyle 2-1, J. Leonard 1-2, J. Connery and J. Kelly 1-0 each, P. O'Brien 0-2 and P. Maloney 0-1.

Note: The John Connolly who played so well for Castlegar in the Minor Final is the same John Connolly later to become one of the greatest hurlers of all time.

PRIEST'S TOP PERFORMER AWARD FOR FR. GRIFFINS
6/2/65

A priest now working in Australia, will present a trophy for award to the outstanding player in his former football club in Galway City. Fr. Tony Hoade was an outstanding player with Griffins and usually played at centre field before his ordination at St. Mary's Cathedral, Kilkenny in June 1954. At the Club's Annual Meeting in the Imperial Hotel, Eyre Square, last week, Fr. Hoade wrote signifying his intention to present a trophy for the club's best player. A native of Annagh, Ballyglunin, Fr. Hoade's home is now at Canal Road, and last summer he spent his first holiday at home in ten years. He then renewed old acquaintances of his football days. In September he returned to Australia and recently he wrote to Secretary Paddy Higgins. At the club's Seventeenth Annual Meeting the letter was read to the largest ever meeting. Members

and officials expressed delight at Fr. Hoade's offer and thanked him for his generosity and interest.

Editors Note:
I was privileged to have been a team mate and friend of Tony Hoade back in the fifties and his love of gaelic football was only surpassed by his love for the Fr. Griffins club. He gave one of his greatest ever displays in that memorable game against Tuam Stars played in the Sportsground in 1953. He completely dominated centrefield and outplayed the great John Nallen the former Mayo and Galway star. I am sure Tony won't mind if I let you in on a secret; when he left for Australia in November 1954 he brought his football boots with him and shortly after arrival he called on another priest, the former Cavan All-Ireland footballer, Peter Paul Galligan and invited him out for a kick about. To-day Tony's love is golf.

In his review of the year Secretary Paddy Higgins hoped that the long awaited West Board success would be a forerunner of many similar successes to come. "The team had a good run in the Championship but had to take second best to the eventual champions Mountbellew" Mr. Higgins said. The following officers and committee members were elected -
President - Rev. Fr. P. O'Laoi
Vice-Presidents - Sean O'Carra, Wm. Tyrrell, T. Gill, Jimmy Ward
T. De Burca Chairman - Jimmy Kilroy Vice-Chairman - Finbarr Staunton
Secretary - Paddy Higgins
Assistant Secretary - Gabriel Nicholson
Treasurer - T.J. Tyrrell
Committee - D. McSweeney, G. Corbett, M. Sullivan, J. O'Connell, J. McMahon, T. Higgins, S. Cox
Selection Committee - M. McSweeney, F. Staunton, J. Kilroy, M. Dowling, T. Higgins
Delegates to West Board - G. Corbett, F. Staunton
Delegates to Football Board - J. Kilroy
Senior Captain - L. Sammon
Vice-Captain - Colie McDonagh

ST. MICHAELS TAKE LEAGUE TITLE AFTER HECTIC HOUR 6/3/65

ST. MICHAELS 2-4 FR. GRIFFINS 1-5

In a close entertaining game at Pearse Stadium on Sunday, St. Michaels outpaced their keen city rivals, Fr.

Griffins, for a narrow win in the 1964 West Board League final. Though early in the season it was obvious that both sides had put in some vigorous training stints and the good attendance were given good value for money, Fr. Griffins emerged as a likely force during the late part of 1964 and in many quarters were voted likely to upset the Shantalla side. For Fr. Griffins Kieran O'Connor at full back was good, though not as dominant as usual. Martin Newell, home on leave for two months, did well but was below his best. Frank Heaney was top scorer and Denis O'Shea, Pat Sweeney and Jimmy McMahon also did well. Frank Heaney 1-3, Tansey Lyons 0-1, Ray Niland 0-1 got Fr. Griffins total.

In late May we read that the "Guinness Football League" is to commence on the 8th June. This league was organised by Fr. Griffins and players from other clubs could participate. Here are the teams and their captains - Na Fianna, Liam Sammon; Wolfe Tones, Liam Cunningham; Robert Emmett's, Colie McDonagh; Sean Tracy's, Rae Gilmore; Roger Casements, Dermot McSweeney; Parnell's, Paddy Ryan; Cathal Brugha, Gabriel Nicholson; Na Piarsaigh, J. Kilkelly. Results of the first games played - Roger Casement's 3-6 Wolfe Tones 2-2 Cahal Brugha's 6-1 Sean Tracy's 3-2.

LIVELY FR. GRIFFINS SHOCKED McDONAGH-LED BALLYGAR MEN

The above headline tells its own story and it is an account of Griffins win in the Senior Championship in August. This is a report from the Sentinel.

First shock of the 1965 championship was caused by Fr. Griffins who upset a fancied Ballygar team at Tuam on Sunday. While the city boys had only three points to spare at the final whistle, their winning margin could have been much greater had their forwards been more accurate especially in the first half. To overcome a team with county stars Mattie McDonagh, Sean Cleary and Tom Sands included, speaks volumes for the enthusiasm and spirit of the Fr. Griffins combination. If the city lads can improve their teamwork and their forwards shooting then they will give a game to the best of teams still left in the championship. It was all Fr. Griffins in the opening half and they led by 2-3 to 1-0 at the break.

Galway County Champions 1972 – team, substitutes and manager. Back row, from left: Tony Geraghty, John Newell, M. J. Keane, Christy Cunningham, John Lowry, Liam Sammon, Denis O'Shea, John McGinley, Jim McMahon, Miko Nolan, Matt Deane. Front row: Rae Gilmore, John Creaven, Jody Moran, Emmet Farrell, Pat McSharry, Gerry Mahony, Tom Sands (Capt.), Denis Flynn, Colie McDonagh, Martin Newell, Billy Keane, Michael Carolan.

The second half found their enthusiasm waning slightly and as a result Ballygar closed the gap and eventually equalised. However in the closing minutes Frank Heaney got the vital goal. In defence Kieran O'Connor, Martin Newell and Denis O'Shea were best. Colie McDonagh and Rae Gilmore did well at midfield, while Dunne, Niland, Frank Heaney and "Tansey" Lyons impressed in the forwards. Final score Fr. Griffins 3-6 Ballygar 3-3. Griffins total coming from - F. Heaney 2-1, T. Lyons 1-2, Newell, Niland and Murray 0-1 each.

Hopes were high that Griffins might go on to win through but they were stopped in the semi-final by Mountbellew.

SLACKNESS IN FIRST HALF
RUINED HOPES OF GRIFFINS CHAMPIONS
MOUNTBELLEW HAD TOUGH PASSAGE 11/9/65

Had Fr. Griffins played for five minutes in the first half as well as they did all through the second half, they would have created the sensation of the year at Tuam Stadium on Sunday, and earned their ticket to the County Senior Football Championship final. But the city boys did not settle down until late in the game and by then the holders had laid on enough scores to withstand sustained pressure and earned the right to defend their title against Dunmore in the final. The game developed from a rather sloppy exhibition in the opening period to one of intense excitement all through the second half. And whatever words of wisdom were imparted to the city boys in the dressing room during the half-time stage, certainly paid dividends in plenty, but just not enough to win the day. For a truly great last ditch stand all credit to Fr. Griffins even though the honours rest with the holders Mountbellew. At half-time Mountbellew led by 2-7 to 0-3. Frank Heaney with flankers Eddie Dunne and Ray Niland had a great second half, while Denis O'Shea, Con Cunnane, Jim McMahon, Carl Reid and Colie McDonagh played themselves to a standstill during the same period. Final score Mountbellew 2-8 Fr. Griffins 1-9. Griffins total coming from F. Heaney 0-5, R. Niland 1-0, E. Dunne

0-2, D. McSweeney 0-1, C. McDonagh 0-1. Fr. Griffins team -

	J. Lynham	
C. Cunnane	J. McMahon	C. Reid
D. O'Shea	K. O'Connor	M. Newell
	C. McDonagh R. Gilmore	
E. Dunne	F. Heaney	R. Niland
D. McSweeney	B. Reid	T. Lyons

In October we read that Colie McDonagh wins his place on the Galway Senior Team. This is the report -

> Fr. Griffins wing half Colie McDonagh makes his debut in top grade football when he lines out for Galway at Ennis against Clare on Sunday. McDonagh, a 21 years old commerce student at U.C.G., gets his chance because regular wing half John Donnellan is under automatic suspension since the All-Ireland final. Donnellan's misfortune is McDonagh's big opportunity though this league tie against little vaunted Clare can scarcely be regarded as a severe test for the champions. Colie is an ex-St. Jarlath's player who won an All-Ireland Senior Colleges medal in 1963. He had some good games for the Galway junior side which won the All-Ireland crown at Luton on Sunday.

Congratulations and continued success to Fr. Griffins for the next 40 years

Henry O'Connor

A large and representative gathering of old and new members attended the Nineteenth Annual Convention of the Fr. Griffin Gaelic Football Club in the Imperial Hotel recently. Mr. Jimmy Kilroy congratulated all players for their performances during the year. In particular he congratulated and praised the members of the senior team for their great display in the County Championship. Mr. Paddy Higgins (Secretary) in his report dealt with the progress of the club's senior, junior, minor and juvenile teams. Mr. Higgins congratulated the Galway Senior Football Team in winning the All-Ireland title. "It was indeed very gratifying from our Club's point of view" he said, "that the Sports Star of that victory and the subsequent Caltex award winner was our own Martin Newell. We hail him as our prince of footballers both on and off the field". He also congratulated the Galway junior team on their All-Ireland victory and our representatives on that team, Frank Heaney, Kieran O'Connor, Colie McDonagh, Rae Gilmore and Liam Sammon. He also praised Ray Niland for his display in the All-Ireland under 21 competition and Tansy Lyons and Gabriel Nicholson who wore the Mayo colours. Rev. Fr. Tony Hoade was thanked for his generosity in donating a splendid perpetual cup to be awarded to the Club Sports-man of the year and the first holder of this trophy is the ex-St. Jarlath's footballer Con Cunnane. Officers and Committee elected -

John Mulholland

TURF ACCOUNTANT

Galway and Salthill

Congrats to Fr. Griffins and best wishes for further success

John Mulholland "The Better Bettor"

Clearing his line in fine style is Christy Cunningham with Dinny O'Shea at hand to help out. Final against Tuam in 1972.

Wishing the Fr. Griffin Club continued success in the future

from

Oliver Lynch & Co.

AUCTIONEERS & INSURANCE BROKERS,

Woodquay, Galway. Phone: 66157/62400

President	Rev. Fr. P. O'Laoi
Vice-Presidents	William Tyrrell, Sean O'Carra, Tom Gill N.T., Tomas De Burca
Chairman	Jimmy Kilroy
Vice-Chairman	Finbarr Staunton
Secretary	Paddy Higgins
Assistant Secretary	Gabriel Nicholson
Treasurer	T.J. Tyrrell
Press Officer	Mick Sullivan
Delegates to West Board . . .	F. Staunton, D. McSweeney
Delegate to Football Board .	J. Kilroy
Committee	C. Cunnane, T. McDonagh, C. McDonagh, M. Doran, D. McSweeney, S. Cox, L. Sammon
Captain Senior Team	Eddie Dunne
Vice-Captain	Tadgh McDonagh
Selection Committee	J. Kilroy, T. Higgins, J. Ward, F. Staunton, M. Dowling and E. Dunne(Capt.)

MOYCULLEN HOLD OUT FOR A WIN
MOYCULLEN 1-8 FR. GRIFFINS 1-3 MAY 1966

At Oughterard on Thursday evening Moycullen defeated Fr. Griffins in the West Board Senior Football Champion ship. Moycullen aided by a strong breeze led by 1-6 to 0-0 at half time. Fr. Griffins put in a strong finish in the second half but failed to overtake their rivals. For Fr. Griffins S. Sweeney, D. O'Shea, G. Nicholson, F. Heaney, J. Kilkelly, T. Lyons and P. Larkin played well. Scores came from Frank Heaney 1-1, P. Larkin 0-1, J. Kilkelly 0-1.

KILLANIN 2-6 FR. GRIFFINS 2-4 MAY 1966

Killanin beat Fr. Griffins at Clarenbridge on Sunday in the West Board Junior Football Championship, but had Griffins begun their rally earlier the match would have been theirs, because at the end Fr. Griffins were going great guns and Killanin were saved by the final whistle. At half-time the score was Killanin 1-6 Fr. Griffins 0-3. In the second half there was a resurgence of good football among the Fr. Griffins players and from the beginning it was a stiff struggle with Killanin backs playing for all they were worth to keep the Fr. Griffins score down. Christy Cunningham had a great match while playing at full back for Fr. Griffins and he

was ably assisted by L. Cullinane, P. McSharry and M. Hernon. The centrefield pair T. Carolan and N. Murray dominated in the second half while P. Larkin, B. Riordan G. Mahony and J. Flynn were the best of the forwards. The Fr. Griffins team on duty –

	W. Concannon	
D. Joyce	C. Cunningham	L. Cullinane
B. Moffett	P. McSharry	M. Hernon
	T. Carolan N. Murray	
P. O'Toole	G. Mahony	B. Riordan
J. Flynn	P. Larkin	D. McSweeney

In the first round of the Senior Championship Griffins recorded a good win and this is a report from the C. Tribune.

GRIFFINS SHOW THE WAY AS
MILLTOWN MISS A PENALTY
FR. GRIFFINS 1–12 MILLTOWN 0–7

Fr. Griffins scored a merited victory over Milltown in the Championship at Tuam Stadium on Sunday. There was never any doubt about the outcome. With Fr. Griffins turning in an impressive performance Milltown was out–classed. They trailed 1–8 to 0–1 at the interval. With wind advantage in the second half they never even extended Fr. Griffins who should make a bold bid for county honours this year. A feature of the game was Griffins ability to keep the ball swinging about to their advantage in spite of the wind. On a calm day Fr. Griffins must surely show considerable improvement. Denis O'Shea and Ray Niland gave Griffins a very decided pull at midfield. The forwards in which E. Dunne and L. Sammon were very prominent, saw plenty of the ball and made good use of it. The Griffins defenders got little to do in the first half but in the second half C. Cunningham, C. McDonagh, J. McMahon, K. O'Connor, G. Nicholson and P. Sweeney impressed. Scorers for Fr. Griffins were L. Sammon 0–5, R. Niland 0–3, B. Reid 1–0, E. Dunne 0–2, G. Mahony 0–1, J. Kilkelly 0–1. The team lined out as follows –

	M. Carolan	
J. McMahon	C. Cunningham	P. Sweeney
C. McDonagh	K. O'Connor	G. Nicholson
	D. O'Shea R. Niland	
E. Dunne	F. Heaney	L. Sammon
G. Mahony	J. Kilkelly	B. Reid

A couple of weeks later Griffins were in action again and once more had a good win, here is a report of that game.

FR. GRIFFINS 1-8 ST. PAUL'S 0-4 30/7/66

Showers and windy conditions spoiled the Fr. Griffins - St. Paul's County Senior Football Championship game at Tuam Stadium on Sunday last. It was just impossible to assess the winner's real worth as the greasy ball together with slippery ground conditions did as much to break up their pattern of play as the opposition. After playing against the wind in the first half Griffins were ahead at the interval by 1-3 to 0-4. On the changeover it was all Fr. Griffins with St. Paul's fighting a losing battle. Best for the winners were C. McDonagh, C. Cunningham, K. O'Connor, R. Niland, L. Sammon, E. Dunne, F. Heaney and Gerry Mahony. The scores came from Lyons 1-0, Sammon 0-3, Heaney 0-3, Mahony 0-1, Niland 0-1. The team showed one change from the side that beat Milltown M. Lyons replacing B. Reid.

Fr. Griffins were now in the county semi-final and hopes were high amongst the players and supporters that this would be their year. The semi-final took place on the 28th August and resulted in a win for Griffins. This is a report from the Connacht Sentinel.

FR. GRIFFINS WITH 14 MEN
QUALIFY FOR SENIOR FINAL
FR. GRIFFINS 4-5 COROFIN 4-3

Despite having two goals against them scored from penalties and playing for the final ten minutes with fourteen men, Fr. Griffins ousted Corofin in the Galway Senior Football Championship semi-final played before a large attendance at Tuam Stadium on Sunday. But Fr. Griffins who were fully deserving winners will have to show considerable improvement if they hope to take the senior title this year. Fr. Griffins victory was

High fielding by Christy Cunningham (No. 3), helped by Tom Sands (4) and Colie McDonagh in Co. Final 1972.

Congratulations and best wishes to Fr. Griffins

from

The Lions Tower,

EGLINTON STREET, GALWAY. Tel: 091-63073

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KNO KNO'S NITE CLUB

all the more praiseworthy when it is considered that they lacked the services of Liam Sammon and Frank Heaney. And again when it is remembered that playing into the wind in the opening half they trailed by only one point at the interval. It was well into the second half before Martin Newell and Denis O'Shea really got going at midfield. Indeed Martin Newell was always playing below his very best form. But even then his goal scored directly from a free forty yards out had a vital bearing on the final result. It did more. It gave Fr. Griffins the assurance they required and with the wind of victory blowing in their favour they found new reserves of energy to overcome a stiff Corofin challenge and the handicap of finishing the game with fourteen men – one of their forwards having received marching orders from Referee Johnny Geraghty (Clonberne) about ten minutes from the call of time. Looking back on the game Fr. Griffins must be given further credit points for winning even after having two goals from penalties and a goal of the "soft" variety scored against them at a stage in the game which would under-mine the confidence of many a team. For the winners Christy Cunningham at full back, Colie McDonagh and Kieran O'Connor were well to the fore in halting many attacks. They got good support from Jim McMahon, Pat Sweeney and G. Nicholson. Martin Newell and Denis O'Shea gave the forwards a good service in the second half, while best of the forwards were Dunne, Kilkelly, Niland and Gilmore with support coming from Reid and Lyons. Half time score Corofin 2-3 Fr. Griffins 2-2. Griffins total came from R. Gilmore 2-1, R. Niland 1-0, M. Newell 1-0, E. Dunne 0-3, J. Kilkelly 0-1. The team was –

	M. Carolan	
J. McMahon	C. Cunningham	P. Sweeney
C. McDonagh	K. O'Connor	G. Nicholson
	M. Newell D. O'Shea	
E. Dunne	J. Kilkelly	R. Niland
M. Lyons	R. Gilmore	B. Reid

So Fr. Griffins found themselves once more in a county final and they were determined to win this one. It was hard to believe that a county

senior title hadn't come to the club since the great days of the three-in-a-row side but this team hoped to change all that. Alas it wasn't to be.

DUNMORE TAKE TITLE 17/9/66

DUNMORE McHALES 2-12 FR. GRIFFINS 3-5

Dunmore McHales proved themselves worthy champions by a convincing - if hard earned - victory over Fr. Griffins in the Galway Senior Football final at Tuam Stadium on Sunday. Dunmore won because they had that all important edge - "combination". It was no consolation to Fr. Griffins to know that they had the men to win this game. But it took far too long for them to act on the apparent evidence of the first half, that they were completely outclassed at midfield, and it was only when the switches were made in the second half that Fr. Griffins produced their best. Martin Newell and Denis O'Shea had a poor first half and it was only when Newell switched to the forty yards mark in the second half that he showed flashes of his old form. If Dunmore had their men of the day in John Keenan and Seamus Leydon - who had some great runs - so also had Fr. Griffins for Liam Sammon had a most satisfying hour's football and seems to show improved form with every outing. Sammon's move to midfield in the second half - while improving things for Griffins - took the real sting out of the forward line. At the other end Leydon with his will-o-the-wisp runs meant action stations for the Fr. Griffins defenders. While Liam Sammon was easily the most impressive of the Fr. Griffins side he had good support from Ray Niland, Johnny Kilkelly and Eddie Dunne. In defence Christy Cunningham at full-back was well supported by Pat Sweeney, Kieran O'Connor and Colie McDonagh while Michael Carolan also did well in the Fr. Griffins goal. Dunmore led at the interval by 1-7 to 2-1 and their total came from John Keenan 1-7, Tom Keenan 1-2, Seamus Leydon 0-2, Pat Donnellan 0-1. Fr. Griffins scores came from Ray Niland 3-2, Liam Sammon 0-2, Martin Newell 0-1. Fr. Griffins team -

M. Carolan

J. McMahon — C. Cunningham — P. Sweeney

C. McDonagh — K. O'Connor — G. Nicholson

M. Newell — D. O'Shea

R. Niland — L. Sammon — J. Kilkelly

E. Dunne — B. Reid — T. Lyons

Sub. E. Lynch for Lyons

After the disappointment of losing the County Final, Fr. Griffins returned to better form in the winter league with a good win over Moycullen.

GRIFFINS SWAMPED GAME MOYCULLEN OCT. 66
FR. GRIFFINS 0–11 MOYCULLEN 1–2

Fresh and fit after the county final of a few Sunday's ago Fr. Griffins revenged defeats by Moycullen at Clarenbridge last Sunday when they outclassed them in a first round senior football winter league game. Fr. Griffins fielded without Colie McDonagh, Liam Sammon and Martin Newell. At half-time Griffins led by 0–7 to 0–2. Best for the winners were Mick Carolan, J. Kilkelly, E. Dunne, Frank Heaney, E. Lynch, R. Niland, G. Mahony and T. Lyons. And the scores came from F. Heaney 0–7, T. Lyons 0–1, R. Niland 0–1, E. Lynch 0–1, G. Mahony 0–1.

In their next game in the league Griffins once more came out on top.

FR. GRIFFINS INTO LEAGUE DECIDER NOV 1966
FR. GRIFFINS 3–6 KILLANIN 3–3

The semi-final of the West Board Winter League played at Clarenbridge on Sunday was a hard fought, clean tussle. Both teams contained a number of new faces as some regulars were absent. The half-time score was Fr. Griffins 2–3 Killanin 1–3. Eddie Dunne had an outstanding game and others to shine were R. Gilmore, B. Power, T. McDonagh and D. O'Shea. Scorers – E. Dunne 0–1, R. Gilmore 0–1, P. McSharry 1–0, E. Lynch 1–1, M. O'h-Iarnain 1–0, T. McDonagh 0–2, L. O'Riordan 0–1.

More action in the Fr. Griffins goalmouth in the final of 1972.

Congrats and best wishes for the future

from

TOM O'CONNOR

O'Connors T.V. & Video,

Shop Street in the Heart of Galway.

SALES LINE 61777 - SERVICE CARE 61173 - FAX 091-61118

After some great displays in the County Senior Championship of the previous two years, Fr. Griffins made the break through in 1967 to bridge a gap of seventeen years. It was a victory long overdue and many more honours were to come our way in the next few years. But first things first and we start with the final of the Winter League which took place in the early part of the year.

FR. GRIFFINS THE MASTERS IN THE WINTER LEAGUE FINAL 3/2/67
FR. GRIFFINS 0–8 MOYCULLEN 0–7

Fr. Griffins had a narrow victory over Moycullen in the final of the Winter League at Clarenbridge on Sunday last. Fr. Griffins won the toss and elected to play with the strong breeze. They had a number of sallies upfield but found the Moycullen back line very strong and clearing effectively until Gerry Mahony had a well taken point from play. Frank Heaney finally got the range and sent over two more points from play and Tadgh McDonagh added another to make the half-time score Fr. Griffins 0–4 Moycullen 0–3. The second half was evenly contested and at times over robust with Griffins that little bit sharper. Players who did best were M. Carolan who saved his goal often and well, E. Dunne, G. Nicholson and J. McMahon in the back line. Denis O'Shea and Frank Heaney were on top at midfield while the pick of the forwards were J. Leonard, T. McDonagh and Gerry Mahony. Frank Heaney 0–4, Gerry Mahony 0–3, Eamon Lynch 0–1 accounted for Fr. Griffins total. And the team was –

	M. Carolan	
M. Hernon	J. McMahon	P. McSharry
S. Brophy	E. Dunne	G. Nicholson
	F. Heaney D. O'Shea	
T. McDonagh	J. Kilkelly	J. Leonard
G. Mahony	E. Lynch	T. Broderick

A couple of months later Fr. Griffins lost one of their star players with the departure of Frank Heaney for the U.S.A. The Connacht Sentinel featured him in their Sports Personality column on the 9th May 1967 and Jimmy Lydon wrote –

This evening we wish Bon Voyage to Frank Heaney, one of the best all-rounders Galway sport has ever produced. Genial Frank has left Ireland to take up an appointment in New York and will be a big loss to the local clubs with whom he had affiliations. Frank broke a long losing sequence for Galway Boxers in the National Junior Championships in 1966. This earned for him the "Boxer of the Year" award from the Connacht Council (I.A.B.A.) and a nomination as one of Galway's Top Ten Sports Stars for 1966. As well as being a talented boxer the Woodquay youth was a Galway inter-county hurler and footballer. He won an All-Ireland Junior Football Championship medal with his native county in 1965 and played for Connacht hurlers against Munster in February 1966. Frank has won several Galway County and Divisional Board championship medals for both hurling and football and has given sterling service to the St. Augustine's, Fr. Griffins and Liam Mellowes clubs. He will continue to play both games with Galway G.A.A. club in New York and will be a big asset to the exiles. We wish Frank every success in his new surroundings.

GRIFFINS MASTERS IN "WEST" LEAGUE DECIDER

16/6/67

FR. GRIFFINS 3-9 U.C.G. (SCIENCE) 0-6

Fr. Griffins had little difficulty in disposing of U.C.G. (Science) in the final of the West Board league at Pearse Stadium on Sunday. Having led 1-4 to 0-3 at half-time they went on to win comfortably. Both sides fielded short some of their regulars, Griffins were minus the services of Rae Gilmore (injured), Johnny Kilkelly and Pat McSharry. Best for Fr. Griffins were backs Christy Cunningham, Jim McMahon, Bernie Power and Gay Nicholson. Ray Niland was the pick of the mid-fielders with good support from Andy Donnelly. In the forward line T.J. McDonagh, who scored a great goal, Michael Donnelly and Gerry Mahony were best. Scorers for Fr. Griffins were T.J. McDonagh 2-2, R. Niland 1-2, G. Mahony 0-3, T. Carolan 0-1, E. Geraghty 0-1. The team was M. Carolan, J. McMahon, C. Cunningham, S. Brophy, B. Power, E. Dunne, G. Nicholson, R. Niland, A. Donnelly, T.J. McDonagh, E. Geraghty, M.

Donnelly, G. Mahony, T. Carolan, A. Howley. Sub D. O'Shea for Howley.

In the Senior Championship Griffins showed their true mettle with a win over Dunmore, a win that started them on the road to the final and ultimate success.

GRIFFINS KNOCK THE CHAMPIONS 4/7/67
FR. GRIFFINS 1-6 DUNMORE 0-7

Without the Donnellans - John and Pat - county champions Dunmore McHales, were shocked at Tuam Stadium on Sunday when they crashed to Fr. Griffins in the Galway Senior Football Championship tie. Without in any way trying to detract from the merit of Fr. Griffins victory one had the feeling that had Dunmore the assistance of either one of the Donnellans they would have won. Admittedly Fr. Griffins were definitely on top when playing with the wind in the opening half but in the second half Dunmore put in their best work. The winners who had the assistance of Johnny Geraghty, who brought off a few very good saves, and his brother Eddie, were without Colie McDonagh. Yet their back division did very well and contained the Dunmore attack. Fr. Griffins are undoubtedly capable of considerable improvement - especially in attack - if that is forthcoming it will take a really good side to beat them this year. In attack there was a lack of penetration, a lack of confidence with everyone leaving the finishing touches to someone else. Griffins only score in the second half came from a pointed free. Both Eddie Dunne and Christy Cunningham put in good work in defence, while Cunningham's long kick-outs were consistently good. McMahon and McSharry proved very good flankers for Cunningham, while Power and O'Shea gave nothing away in the half back line. Ray Niland and A. Donnelly had the edge at centrefield. Best of the Griffins attack were Liam Sammon, TJ Mc Donagh and Eddie Geraghty with support coming from Michael Donnelly, Gerry Mahony and Brendan Reid.

Fr. Griffins who led by 1-5 to 0-3 at the interval had their scores from Eddie Geraghty 0-4, Ray Niland 1-0, Mick Donnelly 0-1 and Gerry Mahony 0-1, while the line-out was -

Tom Sands receiving the New Frank Fox Cup in 1972 from Ed. O'Connell. Some team mates in background are Martin Newell, Gerry Mahony, Dinny O'Shea.

	J. Geraghty	
J. McMahon	Christy Cunningham	Pat McSharry
Bernie Power	Eddie Dunne	Denis O'Shea
	Ray Niland Andy Donnelly	
TJ McDonagh	Liam Sammon	Michael Donnelly
Gerry Mahony	Eddie Geraghty	Brendan Reid

Fr. Griffins were now through to the semi-final against U.C.G. and this game was fixed for the first Sunday in September. In a preview of the game the Connacht Tribune goes for Griffins, saying - "Fr. Griffins were unluckily beaten in last year's final and must be favourites to go into this year's final against the other semi-final winners Milltown".

CITY TEAM WAS VICTORIOUS IN A TOUGH ENCOUNTER FR. GRIFFINS 0-11 U.C.G. 1-5

Fancied Fr. Griffins lived up to the expectations of fans - and the majority of the game's followers - by winning the County Senior Football Semi-Final at Pearse Stadium on Sunday. But in achieving this they had to fight every minute of the hour against a U.C.G. team that never gave up and that was pressing hard for an equalising goal three minutes before full time. The game was tough, uncompromising and exciting to watch as the teams combined in a tussle memorable for the dogged determination that held the result in the balance until the final whistle. On the aggregate Fr. Griffins deserved their victory. They had an edge in fitness and teamwork over the students. For their big test against Milltown in the final next Sunday, however, the team requires an overall honing, particularly in the forwards if they are to gain their first title since 1950. A good goalkeeper is a tonic to a team and Johnny Geraghty was no exception. The county keeper was in good form and gave a reliable display between the Griffins posts. Pat McSharry was outstanding in the full back line while Bernie Power and Colie Mcdonagh did good work in the half back line. Midfielders Ray Niland and Dinny O'Shea gave a good service to the forwards of which Liam Sammon and Gerry Mahony were best. Eddie Geraghty also tried hard. U.C.G. who led at half-time by 1-5 to 0-4 failed to score in the second half. Fr. Griffins scores came from Liam Sammon 0-5 (four from

frees), Gerry Mahony 0–3 Eddie Geraghty 0–2, Michael Donnelly 0–1 and the team was –

	Johnny Geraghty	
Jim McMahon(Capt)	Christy Cunningham	Pat McSharry
Bernie Power	Eddie Dunne	Colie McDonagh
	Dinny O'Shea Ray Niland	
T.J. McDonagh	Liam Sammon	Michael Donnelly
Gerry Mahony	Rae Gilmore	Eddie Geraghty

One week after this great victory Fr. Griffins took the field once more and were determined to bring the Fox Cup to the Club for the first time. When the great teams of 48/49/50 won the championship the trophy was the Crean Cup, so the players wanted to be the first Fr. Griffins men to win the Frank Fox Trophy. And this they did in style.

SAMMON STAR OF FR. GRIFFINS WIN
(15/9/67) CONNACHT TRIBUNE
COUNTY TITLE VICTORY AFTER 17 YEAR LAPSE
FR. GRIFFINS 1–6 MILLTOWN 0–6

Fr. Griffins are Galway's Senior Football Champions. So after a lapse of seventeen years the Frank Fox Trophy has returned to the City of the Tribes. But what a hard tussle they had at Tuam Stadium on Sunday afternoon before finally overcoming Milltown, who until late in the second half looked like capturing their first county title. Griffins were worthy winners in a game which fell well below the expected standard. But on the other hand the wintry weather conditions, a wet sod and a greasy ball did not provide the ideal conditions for a thriller. Yet what a credit the game was to both sides – it was played in a fine sporting spirit. During the first half Milltown held a decided edge – an edge which many considered would be more firmly established in the second half. Indeed Fr. Griffins – during the first half – seemed possessed of only one idea – to cover the man when they should have been playing all out attacking football. Whatever words of wisdom were spoken in the dressing room at the interval had the desired effect in the second half. That plus the wise decision of the mentors who introduced Army man Denis Flynn into the attack. This was Fr. Griffins real

master stroke. Flynn, apart from turning in a very creditable performance acted as a spur to his colleagues and split the Milltown defence, something that had not been achieved until he was introduced. The mentors also introduced Alfie Howley at right corner forward and it was he who was at hand to finish off a beautiful Ray Niland pass for the all important goal. This vital score which came in the twentieth minute of the second half shot Fr. Griffins into a two points lead - and they never looked back. At half-time Milltown led by 0-3 to 0-1. Griffins point was scored by Liam Sammon. Fr. Griffins final tally of 1-6 came from Liam Sammon 0-4, Alfie Howley 1-0, Rae Gilmore 0-1, Denis Flynn 0-1.

The Frank Fox Trophy was presented to Jim McMahon, Captain of the side amidst great jubilation by Rev. P.J. Mahon, Chairman of the Galway Football Board. The winning team was -

Johnny Geraghty
Jim McMahon Christy Cunningham Pat McSharry
Bernie Power Eddie Dunne Colie McDonagh
Ray Niland Dinny O'Shea
T. McDonagh Liam Sammon Michael Donnelly
Gerry Mahony Rae Gilmore Eddie Geraghty
Sub. Denis Flynn for Mahony and Alfie Howley for McDonagh.

Editors Note: Fr. Griffins were the last winners of the Crean Cup in 1950. The new Frank Fox Trophy presented in 1951 was won by another team based in the city - An Cead Cath (Army).

This was not the only championship won by Fr Griffins in 1967. The Club's great minor team captained by Joe Leonard had a runaway victory in their final. This is a report on that final from the Connacht Tribune.

GRIFFINS ON SCORING SPREE AUG 1967
FR. GRIFFINS 7-5 GORT & S. BOARD SELECTION 1-3

The Galway Football Board could hardly have picked a more unsuitable time to decide the destination of the County Minor Football crown, and the trickle of people who stood on one sideline at Kenny Park, Athenry, on Wednesday evening of last week was evidence enough of

Tom Sands being chaired off the field after leading Fr. Griffins to victory over Tuam Stars in the 1972 County Final played in Pearse Stadium.

Best wishes for the future to Fr. Griffins

from

Padraic Burke,

LOWSTRAND PROPERTIES LTD.,

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GALWAY.

the fact. On the other hand the Board could have been sparing the public from an hour of boring football which as the score relates ended in a virtual walkover for Fr. Griffins. The city lads were in control from start to finish and though playing into a stiff breeze they had little difficulty in leading by 2–2 to 0–3 at the interval. On the resumption of play a snap goal by the South Board men brought them within striking distance but it was their only second half score. Aided by the breeze and powered by a number of county minors Griffins tore in and won pulling up. Joe Leonard played a captain's part for the winners and got good support from all the team especially Kevin Doyle, J. McGinley, Brendan O'Brien, Arthur Quinn and Sean Hanniffy.

GRIFFINS CELEBRATE A DOUBLE SUCCESS 31/10/67

Fr. Griffins G.A.A. Club celebrated a unique double success in the 1967 Football Championships at the Hotel Sacre Coeur on Saturday night. The Frank Fox Trophy for the senior football winners was prominently displayed with the county's minor cup which was also won by the Club. Members of both teams were guests of honour at the function and also present were members of the team which won Griffins last senior title in 1950. Club Chairman Mr. Jimmy Kilroy presided at the dinner and also present was Very Rev. Padraic O'Laoi P.P., Rev. Br. Robert and Rev. Br. Loyola, Patrician Brothers. Mr. Kilroy described the achievement of winning two titles in one season as "unique" and said he was grateful to both teams for bringing such honour to the club. Toasting the seniors Mr. Con Crowley said he had been waiting eleven years for that night and some others had been waiting seventeen years. "To win a championship in any county is a great honour but to win one in Galway particularly during these years is a greater honour still. No one can say that this was a 'flash-in-the-pan' win, for Griffins were knocking on the door for the past four years and went to the semi-finals in 1964 and 1965 and failed in the final last year". Fr. O'Laoi recalled that Fr. Griffins arose out of a team called Wolfe Tones who had been

formed after Galway Gaels. He paid tribute to the minor team and hit out at people who asked what was wrong with the youth of to-day and why they weren't as good as they were. "I think they are as good and a lot better and this was proved in the way the minor side turned out for every game and eventually won the county title" he said.

Senior Team Captain Jim McMahon, Minor Captain Joe Leonard, Minor Club Secretary Pat Drummond and Brother Robert also spoke.

One important change took place in 1967, our juvenile section, St. Augustines, were now playing under the Fr. Griffins name.

Údaras na Gaeltacha,

Na Forbacha,
Gaillimh.

Comhghairdeas an Tathair Ó Gríobhta.

Seán Ó Labhraidhe

All the best to Fr. Griffins

from

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CHAPTER 7
Champions Surrender Their Crown
1968

Fr. Griffins faced 1968 in a very optimistic frame of mind. After all 1967 had been one of the great years and the Club was hoping for more of the same. The year opened with the A.G.M. held in the Imperial Hotel, Eyre Square in early January.

In his address to a large gathering of members of the Club, outgoing Chairman Mr. Jimmy Kilroy, congratulated the senior and minor teams on their magnificent showing in carrying off the dual county championships.

> "It is a great honour in any county to capture a county title but particularly so in Galway where the opposition is much more tough".

He was glad that the seniors had at last surmounted the final obstacle and in so doing they brought honour to their club, to their county and to the Association. Although the minors had to take second place to the seniors nevertheless their achievements were equally good. He exhorted all players to keep up the good work during the coming season. Now that they had broken the ice at last he hoped they would consolidate that position and go in search of other championships. Having reviewed the club's various activities during the year, secretary Paddy Higgins appealed for more help in the minor and juvenile grades. "It is from our minors and juveniles that we get our junior and senior players, hence the importance of catering adequately for our young players" remarked the secretary. Mr. Higgins congratulated Colie McDonagh on being selected by the sports writers as Galway Footballer of the Year and he also congratulated Denis (Dinny) O'Shea on being selected Club Man of the year.

The following officers and committee members were elected for the coming year –

President	Sean Turke
Vice-Presidents . . .	Rev. Fr. P. O'Laoi, Wm. Tyrrell, Tom Gill
Chairman	Jimmy Kilroy
Vice-Chairman	Tom Higgins
Secretary	Paddy Higgins
Assistant Secretaries .	Pat Drummond, Brendan O'Brien
Treasurer	Michael Dolan
Press Officer	Mick Sullivan
Committee	Rev. Fr. S. Foy, J. Darcy, S. Cox, J. Hession, C. Crowley, C. McDonagh, E. Geraghty, J. McGinley, A. Howley J. McMahon.
Delegates to West Board . . .	M. Dolan, S. Cox

Delegate to Football Board . J. Kilroy
Selection Committee . . . . . T. Higgins, J. Kilroy, S. Cox, J. Hession, C. Cunningham
Team Captain Senior . . . . . Christy Cunningham
Vice-Captain . . . . . Jim McMahon.

In May the draw was made for the County Senior Championship and Griffins received a bye into the second round. In this round they faced Milltown, last year's defeated finalists and the game ended in a draw.

FR. GRIFFINS AND MILLTOWN IN DRAW
MISSED CHANCES IN REMATCH
OF LAST YEAR'S FINAL

Without ever reaching the expected heights this drawn senior football championship tie at Tuam Stadium on Sunday provided interesting fare. Both sides had their share of mixed chances but with more of the ball the Milltown men could have made the issue safe. Milltown had the upper hand in the midfield exchanges but a stout hearted Griffins defence well led by Rae Gilmore kept the Milltown attack well in check. Fr. Griffins then had two well taken goals by Tony Geraghty and Brendan Reid to put them back in the hunt after trailing at half-time by 1-3 to 0-2. Fr. Griffins had outstanding defenders in Jim McMahon, full back, Bernie Power, Rae Gilmore and Colie McDonagh while the corner men Joe Leonard and Pat McSharry never put a foot wrong. Liam Sammon tried hard in the forward line while Tadgh McDonagh and Brendan Reid both played very well. The scores came from T. Geraghty 1-0, B. Reid 1-0, E. Geraghty 0-2, N. O'Connor 0-1, D. Flynn 0-1.

The team was

	J. Geraghty	
J. Leonard	J. McMahon	P. McSharry
B. Power	R. Gilmore	C. McDonagh
	D. O'Shea T. Geraghty	
T. McDonagh	L. Sammon	E. Geraghty
D. Flynn	B. Reid	N. O'Connor

Fulltime score Fr. Griffins 2-4 Milltown 1-7

Fr. Griffins trained hard for the replay and this extra training paid off.

SAMMON WAS SUPERB
PUTS FR. GRIFFINS IN COUNTY SEMI-FINAL
FR. GRIFFINS 0–6 MILLTOWN 0–1

A powerful display of football by Liam Sammon was the feature of Fr. Griffins victory over Milltown in the Co. Senior Football Championship replay on Sunday. Sammon starred in defence and in attack and it was mainly his superb performance that helped the city side to overcome this strong Milltown challenge. Despite the fact that five points separated the teams after the hour it was really a pity that either side should lose. In contrast with the previous meeting this was the game in which the county players displayed their brilliance. Apart from Sammon, Colie McDonagh and Johnny Geraghty were in fine form while Noel Tierney and Tommy Brennan both had a great game for Milltown. Fr. Griffins led at half-time by 0–2 to 0–0. Johnny Geraghty brought off some great saves while Colie McDonagh was a "Rock" in defence. He got good support from Dinny O'Shea, Joe Leonard and Jim McMahon. Liam Sammon as mentioned before was everywhere and other forwards to play well were Eddie Geraghty and Brendan Reid. Fr. Griffins total came from Liam Sammon 0–2, Eddie Geraghty 0–2, Brendan Reid 0–1, Michael Donnelly 0–1.

Now it gives me great pleasure to introduce the "Sports Personality" from Jimmy Lydon's Spotlight on Sport column that appeared in the Connacht Sentinel of Sept. 6th 1968. It was none other than the very popular Gerry Mahony, who is still part and parcel of the Fr. Griffins club.

SPORTS PERSONALITY

Meet versatile sportsman, Sgt. Gerry Mahony, a member of An Cead Cath, who can best be described as Cork's gift to Galway sport. Last year, the talented Corkonian was captain of the Cead Cath team which won the Chaplain's Cup – the official All-Army hurling championship. He played a magnificent game against the Air Corps at Pearse Stadium. Gerry was also a member of the Fr. Griffins team which brought the Galway Senior Football Championship back to Galway city after a lapse of seventeen years. This year the army

A fair cop. It could be said that Tom Sands is into "heavy metal" with this fine collection of Trophies won in 1972. Captain Tom is seen here with cups for the Galway Senior Championship, Connacht Club Championship, Canon Healy, Kilmaine, Seven-A-Side, West Board Senior Championship, and the Fr. Tony Hoade Clubman of the Year Award.

player has led Liam Mellowes to victory in the Galway Senior Hurling Championship, a feat they last recorded in 1955 - thirteen years ago. Gerry Mahony played a real captain's part in the final against Ardrahan scoring 3-3 of his team's total of 3-11 and his last minute goal turned apparent defeat into a glorious victory for the Galway City Club. Nor does the army sportsman's prowess end just there. This year, too, Gerry was captain of the All-Army "Black Mamas" basketball team which won both the Connacht League and Championship and the Galway County Championship. Gerry Mahony has certainly a record that he can be real proud of.

Editors Note: As I have already mentioned Gerry is still very much involved with the Fr. Griffins club. Indeed he was Chairman when we first started work on this club history and helped me in every way possible. However midway through his term of office duty called and he left to join the U.N.I.F.I.L. peace keeping force in the Lebanon. But Gerry will be back as his home is now in Galway.

Fr. Griffins were now in the County Semi-Final against Mountbellew and this game took place on the 1st October at Tuam Stadium. Griffins really sparkled in this game playing some delightful football.

CHAMPIONS INTO FINAL
FR. GRIFFINS 0-13 MOUNTBELLEW 1-7

Turning in their best performance of the year, Fr. Griffins, the holders, qualified to meet Dunmore in the Galway Senior Football Final, by a decisive and deserving victory over Mountbellew. Handicapped as they were by the absence of their regular full-back Jim McMahon and centre half-back Rae Gilmore, they handicapped themselves still further when they missed a penalty, yet stormed back to beat a strong Mountbellew side in a very entertaining game. Exchanges right from the start were razor keen and football for the first quarter was very fast and open. High fielding and quick, well placed deliveries were the order of the day. Brilliantly led by Liam Sammon who had undoubtedly his best ever performance for the club at midfield Fr. Griffins always looked that shade better than

Mountbellew and Sammon's performance was all the more remarkable since he lost his midfield partner, Eddie Geraghty, who had to retire injured after scoring one of the best points of the game in the early stages. Dinny O'Shea also had a great game at centre half-back repeatedly checking Mountbellew attacks and turning defence into attack with his lengthy clearances. Bernie Power and Colie McDonagh also played well in defence. Brendan Reid at full forward had a great game and fully extended the defence. The other forwards, Denis Flynn, Gerry Mahony, Nicky O'Connor, Alfie Howley, who came on for the injured Eddie Geraghty, Tadgh McDonagh and Tony Geraghty all played their part in fashioning victory. Scorers for Griffins were T. McDonagh 0-4, L. Sammon 0-3 B. Reid 0-2, G. Mahony 0-2, N. O'Connor 0-1, E. Geraghty 0-1.

	J. Geraghty	
J. Leonard	S. Callaghan	P. McSharry
B. Power	D. O'Shea	C. McDonagh
	L. Sammon E. Geraghty	
N. O'Connor	T. Geraghty	T. McDonagh
G. Mahony	B. Reid	D. Flynn

The final between Fr. Griffins and Dunmore was the talking point of the county, with neither side hearing of defeat. While Dunmore had a more imposing record than Griffins they were a much older club, having won the first ever Galway Championship as far back as 1887. Fr. Griffins did not make their debut until 1948 (foundation year) and won three titles in a row. So all in all you could not ask for a better pairing in a final. The game was played on the last Sunday of September at Tuam Stadium.

CHAMPIONS SURRENDER THEIR CROWN
FADE-OUT DURING SECOND HALF WAS MAIN REASON FOR GRIFFINS DEFEAT
DUNMORE MCHALES 2-10 FR. GRIFFINS 1-8

A game which promised much but which never really got off the ground - that's the story of the Galway County Senior Football Championship final in which Dunmore defeated Fr. Griffins, the holders, to win the Frank Fox trophy and yet another county title at Tuam Stadium on Sunday. The game was won and lost in the

first half during which Fr. Griffins were clearly the masters and yet could only be on level terms at the interval. This was due to two opportunist goals scored against the run of the play by a flying Seamus Leydon and a dynamic Tommy Keenan. Fr. Griffins had their chances in the first half when Liam Sammon and Rae Gilmore were on top at midfield and gave a first rate service to their forwards. Indeed Griffins were four points up before Dunmore got their opening score, a point from John Keenan. However, they appeared unsettled and allowed Dunmore to get a grip on the game. In their anxiety to keep themselves in front of the advancing forwards, and trying to anticipate where the ball was likely to go, the Fr. Griffins backs made fatal mistakes in the first half. For on two such raids both Leydon and Keenan, penetrated deep enough to make sure of their goals, to keep their side in touch when play was really going against them. Only Jim McMahon Fr. Griffins Captain, who was well supported by Joe Leonard and Pat McSharry, played commandingly for the full hour. Liam Sammon and Rae Gilmore did well in the first half at midfield, but could not get a grip on things afterwards, while in the forwards Eddie Geraghty, Tony Geraghty and Brendan Reid were best.

Fr. Griffins scores came from E. Geraghty 0–3, A. Howley 1–0, B. Reid 0–2, N. O'Connor 0–1, T. Geraghty 0–1, G. Mahony 0–1.

Griffins lineout –

	J. McGinley	
J. Leonard	J. McMahon	P. McSharry
B. Power	D. O'Shea	C. McDonagh
	L. Sammon R. Gilmore	
N. O'Connor	E. Geraghty	T. Geraghty
G. Mahony	B. Reid	T. McDonagh

Sub. – A. Howley for T. McDonagh

Dunmore –

	G. Mitchell	
P. Donnellan	A. O'Connor	J. Glavey
P.J. Tierney	J. Donnellan	V. Glavey
	J. Keenan Pat Donnellan	
T. Keenan	J. Mannion	S. Leydon
R. Charles	J. Nestor	J. Kelly

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One week later in the Grounds Tournament against Kerry in Croke Park, Liam Sammon, Colie McDonagh and Rae Gilmore are on the Galway side.

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1969

After the great displays of the previous few years 1969 was an anti-climax for the club. Indeed it was our junior team that showed most promise. However delays in running off competitions, in some cases a few months would elapse between games, so it was only natural that players interest would wane.

FR. GRIFFINS WON JUNIOR TIE CLEARLY 14/2/69
FR. GRIFFINS 6-5 ST. COLUMBANS 1-2

Treacherous underfoot conditions did not prevent St. Columbans (Mervue) and Fr. Griffins from playing some fine football in the West Galway Board Junior Football League game on Sunday last at Mervue. It was clear from the start that the bigger and stronger Griffins team were going to win. Some nice passing football was played by them and within fifteen minutes they were 3-1 to 1-1 up. Columbans went in at half time trailing by 2-1. The second half saw Columbans in an effort to swing the game their way make several positional changes but to no avail. Eventually Griffins ran out deserving winners. Best for Griffins were John Beatty, Pat Houlihan, John Creaven, Joe King and Sean Foy. Scorers for Fr. Griffins were Tom Broderick 1-0, John Flaherty 1-2, Sean Foy 1-2, John Beatty 1-0, Joe King 0-1, A.N. Other 1-0.

The next report we have is a game played in August, our researchers failed to find any earlier reports.

CLIFDEN NOT TROUBLED BY FR. GRIFFINS
CLIFDEN 2-9 FR. GRIFFINS 1-3

Clifden easily overcame a much fancied Fr. Griffins team to win this junior football game at Carraroe last week. Playing with a strong breeze in the first half Clifden dominated the early exchanges and went ahead with a Chip Conneely goal in the fifth minute. But it was not until the 25th minute that they had their next score. This was a point followed by three more points and by a missed penalty from full-back Jack Cosgrave. At half time Clifden led by 1-4 to 0-0. In the second half with Jack Cosgrave at midfield the attack got moving and had a goal from a penalty. Fr. Griffins improved in the second half but could only notch 1-3.

Happy group at Medal Presentation 1973. Back row, from left: Henry O'Connor, Matt Deane, Christy CUnningham, Denis O'Shea, Mick Carolan, Jim McMahon, John McGinley. Front row: Jody Moran, John Faherty, Denis Flynn, Gerry Mahony, Martin Newell, Brendan O'Brien, Mick Dolan, Rae Gilmore.

Their scores came from under-21 footballer Emmet Farrell who scored 1-2 and N. O'Connor 0-1. Fr. Griffins were best served by Pat Houlihan at full back, John Creaven, E. Farrell and N. O'Connor.

John Creaven is better known today for all the work he has done to establish Judo in Galway City and County, especially in the schools and colleges.

In the senior championship the holders Dunmore had a convincing win over Griffins who were outclassed on the day.

GRIFFINS POSED FEW PROBLEMS FOR CHAMPIONS
19/9/69
DUNMORE MCHALES 2-16 FR. GRIFFINS 2-5

After turning in a very workmanlike performance against Fr. Griffins in the Senior Championship tie decided at Tuam Stadium on Sunday, Dunmore McHales must be installed as firm favourites to win the county title this year. Having disposed of Fr. Griffins they now meet Milltown in the semi-final on Sunday next. Strangely enough Dunmore did not hit top gear until the second half. Against the wind in the first half they commanded enough of the ball to be well ahead at the interval and probably would have had a bigger score but for faulty marksmanship. But when the sides changed ends at the interval the winners just peppered the score sheet with scores and so well was the entire side moving that Fr. Griffins must have realised at an early stage that they were fighting a losing battle. This was especially so in the first half when the backs and midfield were doing a good job of work but the forwards lacked essential penetration and thrust and their sorties on the Dunmore goals were easily dealt with. Chances the Fr. Griffins forwards had in plenty but they lacked the bite and speed to turn the opportunities into scores. And this was the essential difference between the teams. While Liam Sammon and Ray Niland had a very good first half at midfield they had to yield to the might and power of John Keenan and Pat Donnellan in the second half exchanges. In the back line Dinny O'Shea Christy Cunningham, Pat McSharry and Jim McMahon did well. The forwards were

disappointing but Alfie Howley, Emmet Farrell and Denis Flynn always threatened danger in possession of the ball but they lacked the necessary support. The score at half time was Dunmore 1-6 Fr. Griffins 0-3.

Fr. Griffins lined out as follows -

	J. McGinley	
J. McMahon	C. Cunningham	P. Houlihan
J. Leonard	D. O'Shea	P. McSharry
	L. Sammon R. Niland	
E. Farrell	J. Flaherty	M. Donnelly
D. Flynn	M. Foley	A. Howley

After being knocked out of the Championship Griffins went through the formality of fulfilling their remaining league game against Tuam Stars.

RAMPANT STARS BLAST GRIFFINS WITH IMPRESSIVE LEAGUE SHOWING TUAM STARS 8-9 FR. GRIFFINS 0-5

Tuam Stars who meet Corofin in the replayed Senior Football Championship Semi-Final on Sunday week (Nov. 9th) turned in a first rate display against Fr. Griffins in this league game at Tuam Stadium on Sunday afternoon and finished very easy winners without ever extending themselves. Indeed it was like old times watching the Stars turn in a very workmanlike display. Obviously very fit after continuous training Tuam had Griffins in trouble from the start and led at the interval by 5-3 to 0-4.

The report goes on to lavish praise on individual Tuam players while not even one Fr. Griffins player is singled out for mention. Fr. Griffins total of five points came from J. Flaherty 0-2, J. Lowery 0-1, S. Callaghan 0-1, M. Donnelly 0-1.

The team was -

	J. McGinley	
J. Creaven	J. McMahon	P. Houlihan
J. Lowery	J. Leonard	V. O'Malley
	D. O'Shea M. Donnelly	
J. Flaherty	P. McSharry	J. Newell
H. O'Connor	S. Callaghan	A. Howley

The final event of the year was the A.G.M. and this was held in early December in the American Hotel. Outgoing Chairman Rev. Fr. Sean Foy described the postponement of the first round senior championship tie as a liability which caused interest among the players to drop. He felt the senior championship should end sooner each year. He complimented the juniors on their fine performance during the year and wished the incoming committee and particularly the new Chairman every success. In a very comprehensive report secretary Pat McSharry said that for the first time in four years the senior team had failed to reach the County Final. He also blamed the many postponements of the first round championship game for having an adverse effect on the players and added that the lack of competitive matches over a period of several months leads inevitably to a slackening of interest among the players. Both the Secretary Pat McSharry and Treasurer Michael Dolan who had given sterling service to the club intimated that they would not be seeking re-election.

Greetings to the Fr. Griffins Club

from

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Secretary . . . . . Tony Geraghty
Assistant Secretary . . Pat McSharry
Treasurer . . . . . Paddy Higgins
Press Officer . . . . . Mick Sullivan
Committee . . . . . T. Higgins, J.l Kilroy, M. Dolan, T.J. McDonagh, Fr. S. Foy, H. O'Connor
Delegate to West Board . . . . T. Geraghty, S. Cox
Delegate to Football Board . . S. Cox
Senior Captain . . . . Emmett Farrell
Vice-Captain . . . . . Pat McSharry
Selection Committee . S. Cox, H. O'Connor, T. Geraghty, C. Cunningham, E. Farrell
Minor Committee . . . . S.Turke, P. Houlihan, Fr. S. Foy, S. Callaghan
Under-21 Committee . . J. McGinley, B. O'Brien, E. Farrell, P. Drummond, J. Lowery, J. Leonard, M. Dolan
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CHAPTER 8

The Glorious Years

1970

The Fr. Griffins Football Club started 1970 with three objectives in mind –

1. To win the County Senior Football Championship
2. To unveil a commemorative plaque at Kilrickle in honour of J.J. Walsh, Billy Glynn and Michael Monaghan who were killed in the car crash on Easter Sunday 1950 coming from a match
3. To unveil a plaque at the house in Montpelier Terrace where Fr. Michael Griffin lived and was taken from on the night of his murder fifty years ago.

Great interest hinged on our senior team's performance early in the season as they were powered by the backbone of the 1967 County Champions with new additions such as Tony Geraghty, Emmett Farrell, Eddie Geraghty, Mick Moylette, Liam McGauren and emerging under age players like John McGinley, Brendan O'Brien, Johnny Newell, John Faherty and Tom Fahy.

The first major test of the season was the playing of the 1969 season West Board Final in 1970. The game was played in the Pearse Stadium and resulted in another thrilling battle between old rivals Fr. Griffins and Moycullen in West Board finals. No game was ever easy between these two teams and this one proved likewise before Fr. Griffins emerged victorious on a score of 2–12 to 3–6. The Connacht Sentinel report on the match recalls Fr. Griffins being put to "the pin of their collar" with Moycullen coming back time after time just when Griffins seemed to be getting on top with surprise scores. The Fr. Griffins tremendous defence gained the plaudits with Jim McMahon rated as improving with every outing, with solid companions in Christy Cunningham and Tommy Sands, and John McGinley in goals making some great saves. The Fr. Griffins centerfield duo of Liam Sammon and Denis O'Shea had a tough battle against Padraic Clancy and Martin Faherty only gaining supremacy in the latter stages. The forwards that impressed for Griffins were Ray Niland, Rae Gilmore, John Newell and Tony Geraghty. The half time score was 1–8 to 1–2 in favour of Griffins. Liam Sammon and Johnny Newell pointed for Griffins in the 11th and 12th minutes of the second half. Enda Clancy replied for Moycullen with a goal and a point, followed by a point from Sammon and a great goal from Rae Gilmore to leave Griffins leading by 2–12 to

Some wives and girlfriends at 1973 function. Back row, from left: Mrs. B. O'Brien, A.N. other, Eithne Mahony, Rosaleen Sammon, Una Newell, Bernie O'Shea, Bernie McGinley. Front row: Noreen Faherty, Una Cunningham, A.N. Other, Nora Ann McMahon, Mrs. Denis Flynn, Dell O'Sullivan.

2–5 with six minutes to go. Moycullen were not beaten yet and Ken Cooke with a goal and a point from Joe McLoughlin left the final score 2–12 to 3–6.

Griffins set out in quest of that County title with a first round championship match at Tuam Stadium on the 31st May 1970 against Headford. Griffins met a dogged team and were far from impressive in their play. The writer can recall wondering if they would survive the first round but they did eventually winning by 0–8 to 0–5.

The next outing was again in Tuam, played against Mountbellew on the 19th July 1970. Mountbellew were then one of the strongest club teams in Galway, featuring such county players as Noel Colleran, Brendan Colleran, Gabriel King, Enda Colleran, Francis Rushe, John Hughes and subsequent Connacht Council Chairman Tom Cunningham. Following their dour display against Headford they entered this match as underdogs. Mountbellew played with a strong wind in the first half and led by 1–7 to 0–2. Griffins used the wind to their advantage early in the second half scoring four points in the opening six minutes. Their efforts then appeared to slow down and they were trailing by four points with four minutes to go. Then a high ball dropped between Denis O'Flynn and a number of the Mountbellew backs. Denis flicked the ball over their heads and it fell to the boot of the waiting John Newell who carried it at his feet and placed it in the corner of the Mountbellew net. Newell again proved the hero of the hour two minutes later with the levelling point leaving the score 1–7 each. The newspapers report that Griffins teamed up very well, lashed the ball around in fine style and at all times appeared full of confidence in their ability to make the grade. The Mountbellew forwards could make no headway against a solid set of defenders in the second half very well led by fullback Christy Cunningham, ably assisted by Colie McDonagh, Pat McSharry and Jim McMahon. Liam Sammon had a great game at midfield, also effectively helping backs and forwards and accurately kicking placed balls. In attack Fr. Griffins had real live wires in Emmet Farrell and John Newell who were well supported by Denis Flynn and later by Tony Geraghty and Brendan Reid who come on as sub.

Fr. Griffins team –

	John McGinley	
Jim McMahon	Christy Cunningham	Mick Moylette
Pat McSharry	Eddie Dunne	Colie McDonagh
	Ray Niland Denis O'Shea	
Liam Sammon	John Newell	Emmet Farrell
Tom Sands	Denis Flynn	Eddie Geraghty

Subs - Rae Gilmore, Tony Geraghty, Brendan Reid.
Scorers - John Newell 1-2, Liam Sammon 0-3, Emmet Farrell 0-1, Tom Sands 0-1.

The replay was held on the 23rd August 1970, again at Tuam Stadium and Griffins were clearly the masters winning by 1-7 to 1-5.

Griffins were now into the County Semi-Final and met old rivals Dunmore McHales in Tuam Stadium on the 30th August 1970. Dunmore were the reigning champions and were going for three in a row having won the Co. titles of 1968 and 1969. The newspapers of the time fully record this match. J.P. Burke writing in the Tuam Herald records that Griffins led by 0-7 to 0-4 at half time having played with the breeze. John Leyden scored a goal after four minutes to level the scoring and Dunmore appeared to be ready to take over. John Keenan pointed a free and Liam Sammon equalised for Griffins. The turning point of the game was at the end of the 3rd quarter when "Emmet Farrell captured a short pass just over the half way line and swinging out past Pat Donnellan he swerved through a mesmerised defence to shoot a goal in a packed square". It was a complete shock for Dunmore and a reviving tonic for the city side who needed no second bidding to re-double their efforts. A further shot by Liam Mc Gauran was barely held by Gay Mitchell and scrambled clear for John Donnellan to boot to safety. Further point scores came from John Keenan and Ray Niland. With eight minutes to go Dunmore swarmed in around the city half but Christy Cunningham's long clearances averted the danger. With time ebbing away the falling champions tried everything to get on terms and in the closing minutes their whole team barring goalie Mitchell were on the Griffins side of the line but Griffins held on to win by three points 1-9 to 1-6. The city team showed great spirit with Emmet Farrell a tireless worker at midfield with Liam Sammon and both of them made sure that John Keenan and Pat Donnellan did not own the middle of the field. Griffins best tactical move was to switch Denis O'Shea to full forward and to set Colie Mc Donagh the task of policing Tommy Keenan, one which he performed with near total success. The defence of Griffins was sterling with Christy Cunningham in great form, getting splendid support from the rousing football of Jim McMahon, a dashing Tom Sands and the competent McDonagh and

Tony Geraghty. Griffins owed much of their first half advantage to the clever football of Ray Niland, well backed by the hard working Denis Flynn and Eddie Dunne.
Team - John McGinley, Jim McMahon, Christy Cunningham, Tom Sands Tony Geraghty, Denis O'Shea, Colie McDonagh, Emmet Farrell 1-2, Liam Sammon 0-2, Ray Niland 0-2, Eddie Dunne 0-1, Denis Flynn 0-1, John Newell, Liam McGauran, Eddie Geraghty 0-1.
Sub. - Billy Quinn.

Griffins continued to prepare for the County Final under trainer Henry O'Connor at South Park. The final against Corofin took place at Tuam Stadium on the 4th October 1970. Griffins won the county title on the score of 2-7 to 1-8. The newspaper reports proclaim the following headlines -

FR. GRIFFINS MAKE IT A CITY DOUBLE
EXPERIENCE TRIUMPHS OVER ENTHUSIASM
MASTER CENTERFIELD MOVE
CLINCHED IT FOR GRIFFINS
COROFIN GAVE CITY SIDE GOOD RUN FOR TITLE

Corofin led at half time by 1-4 to 1-3 and against the breeze started by adding two points to their total. Up to then centerfield had been utterly dominated by Corofin and the high flying Jimmy Glynn was playing havoc with Griffins laying on a supply of ball that had the city side constantly on the defensive. The match winning move came in the sixth minute when Denis O'Shea was moved to centrefield from centre half back and changed the picture completely setting Griffins on their way to victory. With O'Shea fielding everything in sight the whole complexion of the game changed and Griffins began to play with all the vigour and verve which had been expected of them.

In the 8th minute of the second half a clearance found Denis Flynn who lashed it forward. Eddie Geraghty was on hand to slam it into the net to leave the score 1-6 to 1-4. Six minutes later O'Shea knocked down a ball to Liam Sammon who got it to Emmet Farrell who slammed it home to the net. Griffins dominance continued with points by Liam Sammon, Eddie Geraghty, and Tony Geraghty. Corofin came more into the game with eight minutes to go with points from Pat Burke and Frank Canavan. Liam Sammon finished the scoring for Griffins to leave the final score Griffins 2-7, Corofin 1-8.

The hero of Griffins win was Denis O'Shea. He gave a display of fielding and hard tough football that would put many a county star to shame. In goal John McGinley made some fine saves. In defence Jim McMahon, Christy Cunningham and Colie McDonagh were impressive.

A House for a Pound

In 1973 the Fr. Griffin Club hit on the novel idea of holding a raffle, (nothing new in this), but the first prize was original to say the least. For the sum of one pound the lucky winner would become the owner of a McInerney House in Renmore overlooking Galway Bay. Tickets were sold all over Ireland, England and the U.S.A. If so desired the winner had the choice of a McInerney House in Galway, Dublin, Cork, Limerick or Waterford. The winner was a young Galway girl from Bohermore, Miss Geraldine McDonagh. Another first for Fr. Griffins.

House owner Geraldine receiving keys. Club Chairman, Seamus Cox, presenting the keys of the McInerney House in Renmire to lucky winner Miss Geraldine McDonagh, 53 Cooke's Tce., Bohermore, Galway. From left: Paddy Flaherty, Seamus Cox, Paddy Higgins, Geraldine McDonagh, Mick Dolan.

Mick Dowling

Tom Sands got through lots of work. Emmet Farrell and Eddie Geraghty were the pick of the forwards and they got good support from Eddie Dunne and Denis Flynn.
Griffins scorers - Eddie Geraghty 1-2, Emmet Farrell 1-0, Liam Sammon 0-4, Tony Geraghty 0-1.
Griffins Team - John McGinley, Jim McMahon, Christy Cunningham, Tom Sands, Tony Geraghty, Denis O'Shea, Colie McDonagh, Liam Sammon, Rae Gilmore, Ray Niland, Emmet Farrell, Denis Flynn, Billy Quinn, Eddie Dunne, Eddie Geraghty.
Subs. - Brendan O'Brien, Mick Moylette, John Newell, Liam Mc Gauran, John Faherty, Brendan Reid, Tom Fahy.

There were great celebrations afterwards as Captain Emmet Farrell received the Frank Fox trophy from Vice-Chairman of the Football Board, Joe Sweeney. Earlier in the year Mick Dolan had proposed a motion to the County Board that the County Board arrange a dinner for both teams after County Finals. This motion was carried and a dinner was held that evening in the Hermitage Hotel, Tuam for both Fr. Griffins and Corofin.

Fr. Griffins finished their 1970 Senior fixtures by retaining the 1970 West Board Championship. They also won a Gold Medal tournament in Castlerea and entertained St. John's of Belfast at Easter.

Michael Dolan penned an appropriate tribute to the County Champions and it is reproduced hereunder -

"THE BOYS OF PROSPECT HILL"
Air - "Spancel Hill"

(1)

In the year of 1970 when Griffins took
the crown,
With men from many places and roots in
Galway town,
Each game they played with fervour, with
fire, dash and skill,
And the Cup they won in glory, now
rests in Prospect Hill

(2)

We had great men in '49, in '50 and '51,
These like the boys of '67 showed the

way for those to come,
The heroes of those former years were
first to gather in
To fill the Cup twice over that night in
Prospect Hill.

(3)

There was Paddy Higgins, and Kilroy with
O'Sullivan and Con,
There was Dowling, Ward, O'Gorman and
the other Higgins (Tom),
These men of yore, with scores of more,
did surely, surely thrill,
For to see bold Emmet Farrell bring the
Cup to Prospect Hill.

(4)

Oh, Dinny you're no Galway man, of that
we all well know,
Yet, you have graced this county's fields,
for twelve long years or more,
And the papers now rightly record your
glory and your skill,
A monument they yet will raise to you
on top of Prospect Hill.

(5)

McGinley stood there in the gap,
Jimmy Mc, brave Christy and Tom,
With Eddie Dunne and Coleen and Tony
our atom bomb,
Liam Sammon proved he has no peer, as
he did speed and swirl,
That ball between the goal posts, hurrah
says Prospect Hill.

(6)

The forwards they were masterful with
Geraghty and Quinn,

Ray Niland on the half-line to place the
flying Flynn,
And when the pressure made it look that
we might scarcely win,
The other Ray came bursting through, the
Ray from Prospect Hill.

(7)

Let's not forget our injured men,
McSharry, Moylette and Reid,
McGouran, Newell, Flaherty nor Mahony
indeed,
And of our trainer Henry, he showed us power
and skill,
And if you have not guessed by now, he
comes from Prospect Hill.

(8)

Now last, not least comes Seamus Cox,
the Chairman from Renmore,
Of him let's shout it loudly, he kicked ball
and score for score,
And finally, we spare a thought for gallant
Corofin,
The place next best to hold the Cup -
outside of Prospect Hill.

Other activities of Fr. Griffins in 1970 are as follows:-
Minor: Secretary - Michael Monaghan
Committee - Pat Houlihan, John O'Flynn, Peter Geraghty
and Bro. Justin.

Good minor side based on 3 City League teams 98's, Sarsfields and Western Stars. This gave the club a foothold in the Henry Street, Whitestrand area for the first time.
June - On an unplayable day the minor side failed to field in West Board Semi-Final and consequently Renvyle were awarded the game. Club appealed for re-fixture but to no avail. Team Captain was Miko Nolan. Panel included Joe Keating, Danny Coady, Paul Geraghty, Sean Bane, Pat O'Brien, Aidan Burke, Bertie O'Flynn, Tom Moran. The

team went to Naas for the All-Ireland Final with Joe Darcy and Tony Geraghty in charge.

Senior: Won Co. S.F.C. and Liam Mellowes won Co. S.H.C. Arising from this both clubs together organised a Dress Dance. Both clubs also won West Board Senior Titles. After Co. S.F.C. final Fr. Griffins and Corofin had a post match dinner in Tuam.

House Draw at Árus Fáilte December 1973. Back row, from left: Martin Newell, Mick Sullivan, Mick Dolan, Seamus Cox, Tom Higgins, Dan Naughton, John Flaherty, Liam Sammon, John Melody, Mick Dowling Sean Lawless, Dan O'Neill. Front row: Henry O'Connor, Donal Keenan, President G.A.A., Sean Turke, Paddy Higgins, Jim Kilroy.

Atlanta Hotel,

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Congrats Fr. Griffins, best wishes for your continued success

Josie Owens

1971

The first major outing for the Griffins senior team was the Connacht Club final against Castlebar Mitchells in the Pearse Stadium on the 28th February 1971.

Fr. Griffins (Maroon and White)

(1) John McGinley
(2) Jim McMahon (3) Chris Cunningham (4) Tom Sands
(5) Tony Geraghty (6) Mick Moylette (7) Eddie Dunne
(8) Denis O'Shea (9) Emmet Farrell (Capt.)
(10) John Newell (11) Liam Sammon (12) Ray Niland
(13) Eddie Geraghty (14) Denis Flynn (15) John Flaherty
(16) Brendan O'Brien (17) Martin Newell (18) John Lowery
(19) Gerry Mahony (20) Michael Donnelly (21) Jodie Moran

Castlebar Mitchells (Green and Red)

(1) Paul Gavin
(2) John Dunne (3) Ray Clarke (4) Brendan O'Shea
(5) Gay Nevin (6) Frank Reynolds (7) Tommy Grier
(8) Liam O'Neill (9) Joe Langan
(10) Benny McHale (11) Ray Prendergast (12) Michael McGarry
(13) Brian McDonald (14) Nixie Clarke (15) George Geraghty
(16) P. Conway (17) John Walsh (18) H. O'Boyle
(19) John Mc Cormack (10) P. Lyons (21) John Kelly
(22) C. Joyce (23) Jimmy Gibbons

There was tremendous interest in this game with the Galway Champions meeting the Mayo Champions. Griffins won this match by 2-9 to 1-10, a scrambled goal into lost time accounting for the closeness of the final score. Griffins were well on top for long periods of the hour and fully deserved their success. Griffins lined out without Colie McDonagh. The full-back line of Jim McMahon, Christy Cunningham and Tom Sands played some great football in front of goalkeeper John McGinley. Mick Moylette was solid at centre half back. Eddie Dunne on the left also impressed and there were a lot of nice touches from Tony Geraghty making excellent use of the tactical drop kick to his half forwards. On paper the Castlebar pairing of Joe Langan and Liam O'Neill looked the stronger midfield duo but their normal rhythm and cohesion was often shattered by the opposition combination of Denis O'Shea and Emmet Farrell. Ray Niland was the best forward on the field, complemented by the hard grafting and brainwork of Liam Sammon who read the game very well; the elusiveness of John Newell and the opportunism of Eddie Geraghty. Griffins led by 2-6 to 0-5 at

half-time. Scorers for Fr. Griffins - L. Sammon 0-6, R. Niland 0-2, D. Flynn 1-0, E. Geraghty 1-1. One of the best backs for Castlebar was Brendan O'Shea, later to play with Fr. Griffins.

Griffins were to meet Bryansford the Down and Ulster Champions at Newry in the All-Ireland Club semi-final in June 1971. However the club requested a postponement due to personal family commitments by some members of the senior team and did not travel. The match was eventually awarded to Bryansford.

Griffins also played a number of matches in the 1971 league beating St. Brendan's Caltra by 2-8 to 1-9 in May with John Mc Ginley, Mick Moylette, Liam Sammon in defence starring and forwards Martin Newell, John Faherty and Martin Joe Keane impressing.

In April they met and beat Milltown by 0-8 to 1-3 at Tuam Stadium. Mick Moylette and Tom Sands were best in Griffins defence with Colie McDonagh and Tony Geraghty also impressing. Denis O'Shea had a good hour in the centre laying on a good service for Ray Niland, Emmet Farrell and Denis Flynn. Martin Newell lined out at right half forward. They also played Mountbellew in April at Kenny Park, Athenry, winning by 2-9 to 1-5. Martin Joe Keane and John Walsh making their debut for Griffins.

Team and Scorers - John McGinley, Jim McMahon, Christy Cunningham Tom Sands, Tony Geraghty 0-2, Mick Moylette, Colie McDonagh, Denis O'Shea, M.J. Keane, Emmet Farrell, Liam Sammon 0-4, Denis Flynn 0-2, Martin Newell 1-0, John Walsh 0-1, Eddie Geraghty 1-0.

Old rivals Corofin and Fr. Griffins met in the league at Carnmore in May 1970. The county champions fielded a very much under strength team missing Liam Sammon, Christy Cunningham, Ray Niland, Tony Geraghty, Eddie Dunne, John Newell and John Walsh. Corofin won by 2-9 to 1-3.

The first round of the championship was held in Tuam on the 15th June 1971 with Griffins hammering out a thoroughly convincing win over Corofin in a hard robust game. In an incident-packed second half they forgot their opening period blues and proceeded to show the challengers all the finer arts and crafts of football at its best. Outstanding contributions came from Liam Sammon who roamed everywhere and man of the match Christy Cunningham. Griffins trailed by 1-4 to 0-4 at halftime. In the second half amidst scenes of confusion Denis O'Shea got his marching orders from referee Tom Cunningham, a lot of people could not fathom the reason. Ray Niland

had a storming finish, Emmet Farrell was a trojan for work and Martin Joe Keane showed his dominance.
Team - John McGinley, Jim McMahon, Christy Cunningham, Pat Mc Sharry, John Lowry, Mick Moylette, Colie McDonagh, M.J. Keane, Denis O'Shea, Liam Sammon 0-5, Ray Gilmore, Ray Niland 0-2, Emmet Farrell 1-1, John Walsh, Denis Flynn 0-2, Sub. Martin Newell (for J. Walsh injured).

In the quarter finals of the championship at the end of August 1971 they met their old bogey team Moycullen in Pearse Stadium and were put to the pin of their collars to win by 0-8 to 0-5. This was a poor quality game with a contrary wind operating. A few minutes after the start two players were carried off after a collision and were unable to continue. They were John Walsh (Fr. Griffins and M.J. O'Sullivan (Moycullen). Griffins led by 5 points at half-time and eventually won by 3 points.
Team - J. McGinley, J. McMahon, C. Cunningham, T. Sands, P. Mc Sharry, M. Moylette, C. McDonagh, D. O'Shea, M.J. Keane, L. Sammon, D. Flynn, R. Niland, E. Farrell, J. Walsh, E. Geraghty. Subs. J. Faherty for Walsh, T. McDonagh for Geraghty.

Ballinasloe and Griffins met in the County Semi-Final on the 12th September 1971 when a last minute point gave Griffins a draw against the outsiders. Ballinasloe led all the way and Griffins could thank Liam Sammon for giving them a second chance they did not deserve. Griffins were slack in their approach, letting the ball come to them and Ballinasloe capitalised on their weakness leading by a point at half-time 1-4 to 0-6. The move of Liam Sammon to midfield gave Griffins forwards a proper service. Sammon was the city team's saviour with the last point but Emmet Farrell, Denis Flynn and Eddie Geraghty did much to keep them afloat. Christy Cunningham, Mick Moylette and Colie McDonagh were best in a defence that was weakened by the absence of M.J. Keane.
Team - J. McGinley, J. McMahon, C. Cunningham, T. Sands, P. Mc Sharry, M. Moylette, C. McDonagh, R. Gilmore, D. O'Shea, L. Sammon, D. Flynn, R. Niland, E. Farrell, E. Geraghty, J. Faherty Subs. Miko Nolan (for Gilmore), Martin Newell (for Nolan). Scorers - L. Sammon 0-6, E. Geraghty 0-2, E. Farrell 0-1, R. Niland 0-1, J. Flaherty 0-1.

The replay was fixed for Tuam Stadium on the 3rd October 1971, where Griffins were comprehensively beaten by Ballinasloe on the score of 1-12 to 1-6. In the early exchanges Cyril Dunne gave Ballinasloe the lead with a point from a free but Griffins hit back well and Emmet Farrell crashed home a fine goal in the 9th minute. Ballinasloe pointed

twice before Flynn hit the outside of the post with a good drive. Ballinasloe scored two further points with Flynn and Eddie Geraghty replying for Griffins. Half time score was Ballinasloe 0–6 Fr. Griffins 1–3. Griffins went four points down after a Ballinasloe goal and they eventually stretched their lead at the final whistle to 6 points.
Team – J. McGinley, J. McMahon, C. Cunningham, J. Lowry, P. Mc Sharry, M. Moylette, C. McDonagh, D. O'Shea, M.J. Keane, L. Sammon 0–1, E. Farrell 1–1, D. Flynn 0–2, T. Geraghty, R. Niland T. Geraghty 0–2. Subs. J. Faherty (for O'Shea), M. Nolan (for Geraghty).

House Draw at Árus Fáilte December 1973. Front row, from left: Josie Owens, Mick Dolan, Ned Walsh, Mayor Paddy O'Flaherty, Henry O'Connor, Donal Keenan, Paddy Higgins. Back row: John O'Brien, Dan Naughton, John Melody, Tom Higgins.

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Continued success to the Fr. Griffins Club

The 1972 season started off early with Fr. Griffins Under 21 team preparing to play the delayed 1971 final. Assembly for training was at the Galway Rowing club in Woodquay and outdoor training took place at the Regional Hospital grounds under trainer Henry O'Connor. Mick Dolan was the organiser in chief and main motivator of the Under-21 side. The final against Mountbellew took place on the 25th February 1972 at Tuam Stadium. Mountbellew were going for a three in a row run of successes. The match was played in ice cold conditions and was in doubt up to the final whistle. John McGinley was masterful in goals. Pat Sands, centre back, was the outstanding Fr. Griffins player who got in a terrific amount of work and who broke up Mountbellews attacking play with numerous high fielding efforts. Kevin McDonagh and Jodie Moran were willing and able assistants while John Lowry, fullback, had a very good game. Emmet Farrell and Miko Nolan had a good innings at centerfield. In attack Fr. Griffins were well served by the forwards ably led by John Faherty with John Newell, John Creaven, Ray McDonagh making the defence work hard. Half time score was Griffins 1-5 Mountbellew 1-2. Fulltime score Fr. Griffins 3-7 Mountbellew 2-7.

Team - John McGinley, Vincent O'Malley, John Lowry, Brendan O'Brien, Kevin McDonagh, Pat Sands, Jodie Moran, Emmet Farrell (Capt.), Miko Nolan, John Newell, John Faherty, Ray McDonagh, John Walsh, Murt Jones, John Creaven.

Scores - E. Farrell 1-1, J. Faherty 1-1, J. Creaven 1-2, R. McDonagh 0-2, J. Walsh 0-1.

One of the first outings for Griffins Senior team was at the end of March 1972 when playing Dunmore McHales in a league match winning by 1-9 to 0-9. Best for Griffins were Christy Cunningham Tom Sands, Colie McDonagh, Emmet Farrell, Denis Flynn and goalie John McGinley.

VISIT OF ST. JOHN'S BELFAST

St. John's G.A.C. Belfast visited Griffins for the Easter Weekend where they were entertained, had a civic reception, a match and thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

In May 1972 Griffins travelled to the Annual Kilmaine Seven-a-Side football tournament played on Ascension Thursday. In the final the full-time score was Milltown 1-1 Fr. Griffins 0-4. Griffins scorers were E. Farrell 0-2, L. Sammon 0-2. It was after 9 p.m. and Milltown refused to play extra time despite Kilmaine officials' demands. The

match was awarded to Griffins. The Canon Healy Perpetual Challenge Cup was presented to Tom Sands, Captain.
Team - Pat McSharry, Tom Sands, Denis O'Shea, Liam Sammon, Emmet Farrell, Tony Geraghty, Martin Joe Keane. Sub. - Henry O'Connor.
1st round Griffins beat Garrymore.
2nd round Griffins beat Breaffy.
Semi-Final Griffins got a bye.

On the 13th May 1972 Griffins played Tuam Stars in Carnmore in the league failing by four points on the score 2-8 to 0-10. This was a below strength Griffins team. Team - Brendan O'Brien, Jim McMahon, Tom Sands, John O'Flynn, Jody Moran, Denis O'Shea, Pat McSharry, Liam Sammon, M.J. Keane, Emmet Farrell, John Faherty, Miko Nolan, Colm McGowan, Rae Gilmore, John Creaven. Sub. - John Campbell (for O'Flynn).

On the 7th May, 1972 Griffins and Moycullen played in a County Senior league match at the Pearse Stadium. This was a very one sided match with Griffins totally dominating and winning by 2-10 to 0-3. Griffins led by 1-5 to 0-1 at half time after playing with the wind.

Griffins set off in quest of another County Senior title on the 4th June 1972 playing local team St. Michael's. Griffins had too much power for their younger opponents despite being short a number of regulars. Playing with the sun and breeze to their backs Griffins had a tonic start when a long dropping shot from Gerry Mahony deceived the goalkeeper, Michael Corbett, and went into the corner of the net. Points by John Creaven, Denis Flynn, Liam Sammon, Martin Newell, a great goal by Miko Nolan and a further goal by Gerry Mahony left Griffins leading by 3-4 to 1-4 at half time, eventually winning by 3-10 to 3-5.
Team and scorers - J. McGinley, P. McSharry, T. Sands, J. Mc Mahon, Jody Moran, Liam Sammon 0-2, Colie McDonagh, M.J. Keane, Denis O'Shea, Martin Newell 0-1, J. Faherty 0-1, Denis Flynn 0-2, John Creaven 0-1, Miko Nolan 1-0, Gerry Mahony 2-3. Liam Sammon kicked with great judgement from centre-half back. Pat McSharry and Jim McMahon were good flankers for Tom Sands with Jodie Moran and Colie McDonagh also effective. Up front Gerry Mahony gunned his way to top scorer with the other forwards sharing in the scoring.

In July 1972 Griffins repeated the encounter of 1971 with Ballinasloe and always looked winners against extremely weak opposition, winning by 1-13 to 1-8. Unfortunately it was a poor game of football. Griffins led at half-time by 1-7 to 1-3, Griffins scores coming from Denis Flynn 0-1, Liam Sammon 1-0, G. Mahony 0-6. Liam Sammon started the second half at centre back for Griffins and they eventually won

easily. Christy Cunningham, Tom Sands, Denis O'Shea, Liam Sammon, Emmet Farrell and top scorer Gerry Mahony were best for the city team that must improve immensely if they were to win the Fox trophy.
Team and scorers - J. McGinley, J. McMahon, C. Cunningham, P. Mc Sharry, T. Geraghty, T. Sands (Capt.), C. McDonagh, D. O'Shea, M.J. Keane, E. Farrell, L. Sammon 1-0, D. Flynn 0-1, J. Faherty, P. Sands, G. Mahony 0-11. Sub. - M. Newell 0-1 for Geraghty.

The next round of the championship was played in Athenry in August 1972. The Tuam Heralds headline reads "Griffins staggered through against weak Mountbellew". This was the County Semi-Final. The report reads "Championship games surely don't come worse than this one. Both teams simply couldn't lift their game at any stage, particularly in attack where Griffins were worse than bad and Mountbellew as bad as they've always been". Only the vigilance and great heart of Tom Sands saved the full-back line from collapse. Denis O'Shea lasted the pace very well and finished with some great efforts. Up front only young John Newell ever impressed though Emmett Farrell tried hard in the second half.
Team - J. McGinley, J. McMahon, C. Cunningham, T. Sands (Capt.), T. Geraghty, L. Sammon, C. McDonagh, M.J. Keane, D. O'Shea, J. Newell, P. Sands 0-1, D. Flynn 1-2, M. Newell 0-1, E. Farrell 0-1, G. Mahony 0-3.
Subs. - J. Lowry (for Geraghty), J. Faherty (for Farrell).

On the 8th October 1972 Griffins met Moycullen in the West Board League Semi-Final. Played in bad weather and slippery conditions Griffins emerged victorious by 1-8 to 0-5. Team - J. McGinley, Michael Carolan, C. Cunningham, John Browne, P. McSharry, C. McDonagh, Jodie Moran, Martin Joe Keane, D. O' Shea, J. Faherty 1-0, L. Sammon 0-3, Billy Keane 0-1, G. Mahony 0-1, John Flynn, Matthew Deane 0-3.
The stage was all set now for the County Final against Tuam Stars to be played at the Pearse Stadium on Sunday 5th November 1972. Griffins continued their preparations under Captain Tom Sands, Trainer Liam Sammon and Team Manager Henry O'Connor. This was a game where Griffins trounced Tuam Stars decisively on the score of 4-10 to 2-7. Griffins were the stronger and more determined side. Tuam got a great opportunity in the opening minutes when John Tobin with an open goal hit the crossbar with nobody to beat. Three minutes later Tom Lane scored a goal for Tuam, but shortly afterwards Martin Newell left footed a shot past Michael O'Neill for Griffins first goal. This was quickly followed within a minute by two goals from Emmett

Club Officers 1974. Back row, from left: Sean Lawless, Liam Sammon, Seamus Cox, Mick Sullivan, Gerry Mahony, Paddy Flaherty, Finbar Staunton. Front row: Paddy Higgins, Henry O'Connor (Chairman), Sean Turke (President), Tom O'Neill.

Farrell and Gerry Mahony. Griffins held a commanding lead of 3-3 to 1-4 at half time. With the breeze now behind them Griffins went further in front with two point off frees by Denis Flynn followed by a goal from Miko Nolan. The game was then as good as over.

This was a totally convincing win for Griffins. There was no comparison between the football they had produced against Mountbellew and what they showed in demolishing Tuam. The new champions had a very solid defence in which full back Christy Cunningham, Captain Tom Sands and newcomer John Lowry were most effective while Pat McSharry, Jim McMahon and Colie McDonagh kept a tight rein on the Tuam backs from which so much was expected. M.J. Keane had a great game in the centre. John Mc Ginley was rarely tested in the Griffin goal but he handled competently anything that came his way. Fr. Griffins' O'Shea gave sporadic assistance to Keane.

Griffins had skilful leadership in Liam Sammon, a trump card in the accuracy of Denis Flynn and Gerry Mahony, while Emmet Farrell until he retired injured in the last quarter, Miko Nolan and veteran Martin Newell combined well. Substitute John Faherty, a county junior, showed some nice touches.

Team - J. McGinley, J. Lowry, C. Cunningham, T. Sands, P. McSharry, J. McMahon, C. McDonagh, D. O'Shea, M.J. Keane, M. Nolan 1-0, L. Sammon 0-2, D. Flynn 0-2, M. Newell 1-1, E. Farrell 1-1, G. Mahony 1-3. Sub. J. Faherty 0-1 for Farrell.

Griffins finished the season well three weeks later in November winning the West Board Senior Football Championship easily against St. Michaels by the score of 2-13 to 0-6.

Team - Michael Carolan, P. McSharry, C. Cunningham, T. Sands, J. Moran, C. McDonagh, P. McSharry, D. O'Shea, M.J. Keane, J. Newell 0-1, L. Sammon 0-2, D. Flynn 1-4, B. Keane 0-1, J. Faherty 1-1, G. Mahony 0-4.

Subs. - M. Nolan for Newell, R. Gilmore for Keane.

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1973

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Trainer . . . . . L. Sammon.
Ass. Trainer . . . . . H. O'Connor.
Team Manager . . . . .H. O'Connor.

After all the success achieved in 1972 club members wondered what the coming year would hold in store. Officers, Team Managers and Committees were selected at the 1972 AGM which members felt would utilise all the skills and expertise available in the club to achieve more success for the premier Gaelic Football club in the city.

Being County Senior Football Champions for 1972 meant involvement in the Connacht Clubs Championship. Fr. Griffins were drawn to meet Sligo champions Curry in Pearse Stadium on the 14/1/1973 in the first round. This fixture meant little rest for team members and manager after the Christmas and New Year. Several nights preparation took place in St. Mary's College where the facilities allowed indoor and

outdoor training. These sessions were supplemented with challenge matches against other club teams, especially St. Michaels U-21's who were preparing for the County Final in that grade. Curry had won the Sligo Championship against all the odds to confound the critics and beat hot favourites Enniscrone in the County final 1-10 to 0-5 so a close contest was expected with home advantage a possible bonus for Fr. Griffins.

A club committee was in charge of organising the event. A special match programme was distributed free to patrons as they entered the stadium. Included in the programme was a special welcome to the visiting Curry team. 'Cead Isteach' was a mere 25p.

The game was played in very windy conditions with Fr. Griffins playing against the wind in the first half. At half time Fr. Griffins were leading 1-5 to Curry's 1-3. A definite win looked on the cards. Due to poor shooting and good defensive work both sides could only add three scores to the first half total. The final score was Fr. Griffins 1-7 Curry 2-3. Fr. Griffins two points coming from frees in the 45th and 48th minutes of the game, Curry's second half goal coming in the 41st minute which put them in the lead. Highlights of the game for Fr. Griffins was the great displays by goalie John McGinley, all the backs especially Colie McDonagh, Denis O'Shea at midfield and forwards Gerry Mahony and Martin Newell. This narrow victory put Fr. Griffins into the semi-final against Roscommon Gaels to be played in Dr. Hyde Park Roscommon on 27/1/1973. Experts again predicted a close game with the provision of better accuracy by Fr. Griffins if they wanted to succeed. This was Roscommon Gaels first entry to the Connacht Club Championship and they had a very strong team containing many Roscommon senior and recent minor county players. Fr. Griffins fielded the same team as played against Curry. Still unavailable because of cartilage injuries were Emmett Farrell and Pat Sands.

Fr. Griffins played with the breeze in the first half but due to very inaccurate shooting they were three points behind nearing the end of the first half but a goal by Miko Nolan and a Gerry Mahony point gave Fr. Griffins a half time lead of one point. During half time Fr. Griffins manager decided to switch Liam Sammon from centre forward to midfield in a direct swap with M.J. Keane. This switch plus a better performance by all others led to a marked improvement in the Griffins team.

Martin Newell was switched to full-forward and his craft and experience in creating openings led to many scores. Griffins were completely on top in the last 10 minutes and won in the end by 2-6 to 1-6.

Billy Keane replaced John Faherty after 15 minutes. Fr. Griffins were now in the Connacht Club Final for the second time. They won it in 1971 for the first time when they beat Castlebar Mitchells in the Final.

In the 1973 final they met Ballaghaderreen the Mayo champions who beat Ballinamore from Leitrim in the semi-final by two points. The match was fixed for the Pearse Stadium on 11/2/73. The Fr. Griffins organising committee had another match programme distributed free to all spectators for this game.

For this game the Griffins team showed some positional changes from the semi-final and one change in personnel. Billy Keane who replaced Johnny Faherty in that game was selected at left half forward with Denis Flynn occupying Johnny's position at full forward. Much was expected from this team in the final. The Ballaghaderreen team contained some Mayo stalwarts John Morley (R.I.P), Con Moynihan, Sean Kilbride, John O'Mahony to mention just four. The Ballaghaderreen management expected their younger team to do well in their first final.

This was another game where the wind had an influence, in fact it was near gale force. Fr. Griffins played against the wind in the first half and through clever possession football and unselfish running by all the team, turned over leading by 1-2 to 0-4. The goal came from a good J. McGinley clearance to Liam Sammon who transferred to Miko Nolan whose rocket-like shot left the Ballaghaderreen goalie Sean McGoldrick helpless. After the interval Griffins "went to sleep" to quote a local journalist reporting the match. When Fr. Griffins "woke up" they put some good moves together to get points by Gerry Mahony (0-4), Denis O'Shea (0-1) (not usually noted for his accuracy) and Miko Nolan (0-1). Ballaghaderreen only scored two points by J. Morley and J. Duffy in the second half. This left the final score 1-8 to 0-6 in Fr. Griffins favour. Stars in this second Connacht title for the club were John McGinley, backs Colie McDonagh, Christy Cunningham and Tom Sands, Liam Sammon at midfield and the forwards already mentioned. The team was John McGinley, John Lowry, Christy Cunningham, Tom Sands, Pat McSharry, Jim McMahon, Colie McDonagh, Martin J. Keane, Denis O'Shea, Miko Nolan, Liam Sammon, Billy Keane, Martin Newell, Denis Flynn, Gerry Mahony. Subs. - Mick Carolan, Matthew Deane, John Newell, Tony Geraghty, John Browne, Mick Smalle, Brendan O'Brien, John O'Flynn, John Faherty, Jody Moran.

As a result of this victory Fr. Griffins were now in the All-Ireland semi-final against Cork and Munster Champions Nemo Rangers. This match was fixed for Pearse Stadium for April 28th 1973. The clash of this semi-final with the Carroll's All-Ireland 7-A-Sides in Dublin led

to the withdrawal of both teams from the 'sevens'. Nemo Rangers, containing many Cork senior, 21's and minor players were the strongest team Fr. Griffins had to play in the competition; names like Billy Morgan, Coogan brothers (Frank, Dev and Billy), Jimmy Barrett, Seamus Coughlan are all good strong gaelic players. In the weeks leading up to this All-Ireland Semi-Final Fr. Griffins had some poor league performances due to the absence of some players through injury and work commitments but hopes were high of a good performance against Nemo.

The team that represented the club in this match showed a number of changes from the Connacht Final selection.

	John McGinley	
Jim McMahon	Christy Cunningham	Tom Sands
Pat McSharry	Colie McDonagh	Martin Newell
Denis O'Shea	Martin Joe Keane	
Miko Nolan	Liam Sammon	Denis Flynn
Pat Sands	Emmett Farrell	Gerry Mahony

Subs. - Mick Carolan, John Lowry, John Faherty, John Newell Jim McMahon gone to corner back, John Lowry to subs. Colie Mc Donagh to centre back from wing back. Martin Newell from corner forward to left half back. Pat Sands and Emmett Farrell recovered from injury returning to positions in the full forward line. The team had trained twice weekly with club games or challenge matches on the weekends for this big occasion. The team changed and had the team talk in the nearby Hilltop Hotel before running the short distance to the Pearse Stadium.

The actual game showed up some of the weaknesses in the Griffins team. The most notable being the inability to capitalise on possession to get scores. This failure was to some extent notable in the previous games but on this occasion it was one of he major reasons for the large score difference in the end.

The game was even enough for the first quarter but gradually it became evident that Griffins were up against a well drilled, fit and accurate team. In the first quarter points were exchanged and play was even enough. By the ninth minute Griffins led by 0-2 to 0-1. Some poor marksmanship militated against more Griffins scores when they had a large percentage of possession. From the 20th minute to half time Nemo hit a purple patch and scored some wonderful short and long range points. Fr. Griffins were really under stress in this period and seemed unable to match Nemo or score themselves when in possession (their biggest failure in this game). Jimmy Barrett and Kieran Collins

Castlerea Seven-A-Side 1974. Back row, from left: Tom Sands, Matt Deane, Leo McCaffrey, Colie McDonagh, Gerry Mahony, Pat McSharry, Donal Sands. Middle row: Henry O'Connor, Hubert Deane, Pat Sands, Liam Sammon, Denis O'Shea. Front row: Paula O'Shea, Emmett Farrell, Francis O'Shea.

Action from 1975 County Final. "A Captain clears his line". Tom Sands (with ball) repels a Caltra attack in the 1975 County Final in Tuam. Denis O'Shea looking on in case help is needed.

were getting most of the Nemo scores. By half-time Nemo were leading 0-11 to 0-7. Most of the Fr. Griffins scores ironically coming from the boot of Corkman Gerry Mahony.

After the restart Nemo increased their lead 0-15 to 0-7 and things looked really bad for Fr. Griffins. Switches to the team saw L. Sammon to midfield, Pat Sands to centreback and Colie McDonagh to the forwards brought some relief for Fr. Griffins but still scores were very difficult to come by. Two points in the second half was a poor return for the amount of possession Griffins had, one from a free by Gerry Mahony and one from play by Denis Flynn. Nemo Rangers won 0-17, Fr. Griffins 0-9.

Few Griffins players played up to the expected standard but Captain Tom Sands, Pat McSharry, John McGinley, Martin Newell, Liam Sammon, Pat Sands and Gerry Mahony (who scored 0-8 points from frees) tried their best. Nemo Rangers played very confidently all through and were deserving winners in a sporting game and they went on to defeat St. Vincent's, Dublin in the All Ireland Club Final.

While matches were being played outside a very successful "Scor 25" Card Drive was organised by Mick Dolan and Liam Sammon and took place in the Sacre Coeur Hotel. The Club Final of this competition was held on 7th March 1973 and was won by Billy Joyce who went on to represent the Club in the National Finals in Dublin.

Scor Question Time team retained their Crown beating Liam Mellowes in the final after being tied at 44 points each. It took three rounds of questions in extra time to crack the deadlock. Team - Michael O'hUallachan, Michael Monaghan, Emmett Farrell.

CITY CLUBS CELEBRATE

On the 16th March 1973 three Galway City G.A.A. clubs got together (Fr. Griffins, Liam Mellowes and St. Michaels) to celebrate in the Great Southern Hotel. The main celebration was Fr. Griffins 25 years in existence. The club was presented with a special birthday cake by the ladies committee of the Liam Mellowes club. The Chairman of Fr. Griffins Seamus Cox assisted by Senior Team Captain Tom Sands extinguished the candles to much laughter and good natured cracks.

One of the guests of honour at the dinner was Councillor Martin Divilly, deputising for the Mayor, who praised the three city clubs for all the work they were doing to foster the games in the city, he said Fr. Griffins, as County Champions, Connacht Club Champions, were living up to the proud name of the patriotic Galway priest after whom the club was named. Another guest County Board Chairman Mr. Norman

Farragher congratulated all three clubs and praised the social activity and foresight of the three clubs in organising it who were competing against other codes for players. County Board President Mr. Jimmy Duggan who is also President of Liam Mellowes called for more dedication to the three clubs from the young people in the city and more involvement from the parents of these young people.

In April, Easter weekend, a visit was organised by Con McGee team from Co. Antrim to Galway city. Fr. Griffins played a friendly against this team which was enjoyed by both sides and very much appreciated by the visitors who were made very welcome to the city.

On the 15th April 1973 Fr. Griffins travelled to Newtowncashel Co. Longford to play in the local inter-club tournament. Fr. Griffins were drawn to play against Longford Slashers. The game was played at a very fast pace throughout, was very enjoyable and both teams gave a fine display of all Gaelic football skills. The more confident Slashers team went into an early lead only to be pulled back by a determined Fr. Griffins team. Halftime score was Longford Slashers 1-1 Fr. Griffins 0-4. In the second half the Slashers got some excellent scores and Fr. Griffins began to tire, Colie McDonagh, Henry O'Connor and John Faherty getting points from play and Pat Sands pointing two frees to leave the full time score Longford Slashers 1-10 Fr. Griffins 0-9.

In the 1973 County League Fr. Griffins found it very difficult to collect league points. This was due to the unavailability of all the club's players for these league matches. Each game saw a different line-out, players turning out who were unavailable for the previous game and players who played in earlier games unavailable. This led to uncertainty and lack of confidence in the overall team performance.

This problem was also compounded by the fact that there was no continuity in the arranging of league fixtures, often the previous year's league was being played with the present year's with long stretches between matches. In the 1973 league U.C.G. were Griffins first opponents in a game played in Pearse Stadium. U.C.G. fielded six of the team beaten in the Sigerson Final the previous week. At half-time the scores were level and when U.C.G. got two goals it looked as if Fr. Griffins were finished. John Faherty came on as a sub and with his first touch of the ball fisted a Griffins goal. Fr. Griffins added 4 points which left the score Fr. Griffins 1-7, U.C.G. 2-4. Scores for Fr. Griffins came from G. Mahony 0-6, J. Faherty 1-0, P. Sands 0-1.

The second league match on 25/3/1973 turned out to be an historic occasion for our opponents St. Michaels. The opening lines of the

match report in the Connacht Tribune read "A great emotional outburst greeted the end of this county senior football league game at Salthill's Pearse Stadium on Sunday. And no wonder. After years of trying Michael's finally beat the side they've always wanted to hammer, neighbours Father Griffins". In the first half the teams were fairly even with Liam Sammon and Tony Geraghty getting Griffins first half total of 0-4 points and Martin Ryan and Tom Nally sharing Michael's half-time score of 0-6. In the second half Fr. Griffins could only add two points while St. Michael's added another 1-3 to their total. In this match Fr. Griffins were without ace free taker Gerry Mahony and his absence was sorely felt. Players who tried their best for Fr. Griffins were goalie John McGinley, Tom Sands, Jody Moran, Colie McDonagh and Liam Sammon. As it was an occasion to remember the two teams were - St. Michaels - Martin Noonan, Christy Donoghue, Liam Cunningham, Dave Shaughnessy, Joe Corcoran, Paddy Ryan, Peter Folan, Joe Ryan 0-1, Finian Carney, Tom Nally 0-5, Gerry Gilmore, Gerry Dooley 1-0, Martin Ryan 0-3, Eddie Caulfield, Joe Murphy. Subs - Tom Corcoran for Donoghue, Christy Howley for Murphy.
Fr. Griffins - J. McGinley, J. Lowery, T. Sands, P. McSharry, Jody Moran, Jim McMahon, C. McDonagh, Tony Geraghty 0-1, D. O' Shea, John Newell, L. Sammon 0-4, D. Flynn 0-1, Matt Deane, John Faherty, Billy Keane. Subs - John Brown for Geraghty, John O' Flynn for Browne.
Final score - St. Michaels 1-9 Fr. Griffins 0-6.

In the third round of the league Tuam Stars were Griffins opponents in a game played in Tuam Stadium at the end of May. In this game Fr. Griffins were playing without many regulars L. Sammon, C. Cunningham, C. McDonagh, P. Sands, E. Farrell and M.J. Keane. In the first half the game was quite close with scoring exchanged, Tuam converted a penalty but immediately Fr. Griffins scored a goal via Denis Flynn. At half time the score showed Fr. Griffins leading by one point 1-5 to Tuam 1-4. Play was very entertaining in the second half but the method of many short passing movements led to play breaking down frequently. Each side scored four points in this half with less than a minute to go so this left Fr. Griffins leading by one point. In one last gasp Tuam attack the ball broke to Tom Lane and he scored a goal which left Tuam ahead by two points. On the kick out the final whistle sounded; Tuam Stars 2-8 Fr. Griffins 1-9. Those who played well for Fr. Griffins were Martin Newell at centre back in the first half and at mid-field in the second and everything he did "had the mark of method and purpose". Others who did well were defenders Tom Sands, Pat McSharry and John Lowery. John had a number of good saves to

his credit. Dinny O'Shea had a good hour at midfield and only G. Mahony and Denis Flynn looked dangerous in an attack which overplayed the ball.
Team - John McGinley, Kevin McDonagh, John Lowery, Tom Sands, Pat McSharry, Martin Newell, Jody Moran, Denis O'Shea, Gerry Merrigan, Leo McCaffrey, Miko Nolan, Conor O'Malley, Billy Keane 0-1, Denis Flynn 1-0, Gerry Mahony 0-8 (three from frees).

The fourth match in the 1973 senior league was played on the 10th March 1974 against Mountbellew in Mountbellew. This was a game either side could have won. Both sides missed numerous scoring opportunities and although Fr. Griffins had wind advantage in the first half they trailed 1-1 to 0-3 at half time. In the second half great defensive work by the Griffins backs kept Mountbellew's scores to one point. During this half centreback Marcus Conroy suffered a knee injury and had to go off. Keril Finnerty (R.I.P.) replaced him. Fr. Griffins added two more points to their total leaving the scores level 1-2 to 0-5 with time almost up. One last attack brought Mountbellew a match winning point.
Final Score - Mountbellew 1-3, Fr. Griffins 0-5.
Team - Mick Carolan, J. Moran, J. McMahon, Billy Joyce, Kevin Mc Donagh, Marcus Conroy, C. McDonagh 0-1, Miko Nolan, G. Merrigan, L. McCaffrey, P. Sands, M.J. Keane, Henry O'Connor, M. Newell, G. Mahony.
Sub. - Keril Finnerty for Marcus Conroy (injured).

In the league match against Corofin Fr. Griffins suffered their fourth defeat in the 1973 league. Corofin eventually won out the 1973 County League.

In June Fr. Griffins were drawn to play St. Michael's in the West Board Championship in Pearse Stadium. Fr. Griffins were unexpectedly beaten in the County League in March by St. Michaels so a competitive match was expected. The match started forty minutes late and was played with incessant mist all through. For this match John McGinley was absent but the addition of some players from the junior team ensured Griffins had a strong team on duty. Fr. Griffins problems of having inaccurate forwards was evident this time in the St. Michaels team and by half time Fr. Griffins lead 1-5 to 0-0 for St. Michaels who had numerous scoring opportunities which were wasted. In the second half Michael's Joe Ryan had an early point but this was quickly cancelled out with points from Mahony (2), Nolan and McCaffrey. It

was all one way traffic from now to the end with Griffins almost kicking points at will. Sean Lally added St. Michael's second and last point with time running out. The final score Fr. Griffins 3-12 St. Michael's 0-2 well and truly reversed the early defeat in the County League.
Team - Mick Carolan, Jody Moran, J. Lowery, T. Sands, P. Mc Sharry, Jim McMahon, C. McDonagh, L. Sammon 1-0, Gerry Merrigan, Leo McCaffrey 0-1, M. Nolan 0-1, Conor O'Malley 1-0, Billy Joyce 1-0, Denis Flynn 0-6, Gerry Mahony 0-4.

GRIFFINS TO THE FORE IN WEST BOARD DECIDER

The final of the West Board was not played until Sunday November 18th. Fr. Griffins and U.C.G. had won their ways to this delayed final played in Pearse Stadium. Fr. Griffins got of to a great start and after 8 minutes led 1-4 to 0-0. The scores came from L. Sammon, G. Mahony and a goal by full forward Martin Newell. In this period a Denis Flynn goal was disallowed for a square infringement. Colie McDonagh and Jody Moran played well in defence and helped stifle many U.C.G. attacks. Three minutes before half-time Pat Sands collected a ball inside the U.C.G. half and set of on a solo run which he finished with a great goal. Marcus Conroy, his midfield partner, added a point to leave the half-time score 2-6 to 0-2 in Griffins favour. The second half showed two more evenly matched sides and after nine minutes U.C.G. scored a goal and a point. Marcus Conroy added another point to leave the scores 2-7 to 1-3. Further points were exchanged by both teams and a spirited finish by U.C.G. brought out the best in Fr. Griffins defence. The final score of 2-12 to 1-7 indicated Fr. Griffins superiority over a somewhat understrength U.C.G. team. On this occasion Colie McDonagh, Jody Moran in defence, Marcus Conroy, Pat Sands in midfield and Liam Sammon and Gerry Mahony in the attack were best for Fr. Griffins in this final.
Team - J. McGinley, P. McSharry, T. Sands, J. Moran, J. McMahon, C. McDonagh, M. Conroy, P. Sands, L. McCaffrey, L. Sammon, C. O'Malley, D. Flynn, M. Newell, G. Mahony, D. O'Shea.

As 1972 County Champions Fr. Griffins were expected to do well in the 1973 Championship despite their indifferent league form. A first round tie against Dunmore was played on May 13th in Tuam Stadium. It was the glamour fixture of the first round - champions of 1972 versus championship hopefuls. Fr. Griffins shot into an early lead with points from Emmett Farrell and Liam Sammon. Another Farrell point brought Griffins total to 0-3 for the first half. However this was outdone by the Dunmore team who scored 0-6. Fr. Griffins showed little enthusiasm

County Senior Champions 1975. Back row, from left: Pat McSharry, John McGinley, Liam Sammon, Jim McMahon, Denis O'Shea, Jim Noone, Hubert Deane, Pat Sands. Front row: Colie McDonagh, Ray McDonagh, Gerry Kelly, Gerry Mahony, Tom Sands (Capt.), Barney Costello, Denis Flynn.

in the first half and after some positional switches at half time plus a rallying talk by manager Henry O'Connor the team got stuck into the game right from the throw-in. Inside five minutes Griffins were in the lead, a goal by Pat Sands who was switched to full forward and a Mahony point put the score 1-4 to 0-6. Another point by Gerry Mahony put Griffins two points up. Two frees by John Keenan put Dunmore on level terms and that's the way the game ended. Fr. Griffins 1-5 Dunmore 0-8.

Team - J. McGinley, J. Lowery, J. McMahon, T. Sands, P. McSharry P. Sands, C. McDonagh, L. Sammon, D. O'Shea, M. Newell, E. Farrell, D. Flynn, B. Keane, M. Nolan, G. Mahony.

Sub. - M. Deane for M. Nolan.

The replay took place over two months later on 22nd July. Expectations of a thrilling encounter failed to materialise in this replay. Fr. Griffins were but a pale shadow of the championship team of 1972 and never looked like troubling Dunmore who showed a great improvement on their drawn game performance. On this occasion Fr. Griffins looked sluggish and lacked thrust and determination and their failure to score more than 1-4 showed their inability to get match-winning scores. At half-time the score was Dunmore 1-6 Fr. Griffins 0-2. The score at the end was Dunmore 3-9 Fr. Griffins 1-4. Leo McCaffrey who substituted for J. Lowery scored 1-0, L. Sammon, G. Mahony, C. O'Malley and M. Newell scored 0-1 each.

Team - J. McGinley, J. Lowery, J. McMahon, T. Sands, P. McSharry M. Conroy, C. McDonagh, L. Sammon, D. O'Shea, C. O'Malley, M. Nolan, D. Flynn, M. Newell, P. Sands, G. Mahony.

Sub. - L. McCaffrey for J. Lowery.

The improvement Dunmore showed in the replay was built on and they won their way to the county final in which they beat U.C.G. 2-11 to 0-12.

ANNUAL OUTING TO KILMAINE

On Ascension Thursday 1973 Fr. Griffins left Eyre Square on their annual outing to the village of Kilmaine. One of the most loyal and consistent team members Pat McSharry hailed from this village and it was through him that our club was first invited (1971) to play in this tournament for the Canon McEvilly cup. We had won the cup in 1971, 1972 and we hoped we would do well in 1973. We always brought a strong panel to this tournament and often had too many willing to travel. This was no doubt because of the tea, sandwiches and apple tart we get each year in Pat McSharry's house where we would go after the first round match was played.

Usually an equal number of teams from Galway and Mayo were invited and it was often a Galway v Mayo final. This often took place in late evening when a large crowd would have come to see the concluding stages of the competition. In 1973 Fr. Griffins and the local team Kilmaine had won their way to the final. Local heroes like Des and Joe McGrath, Tom MacKee, Tommy Doherty and Patsy O'Dea were pitted against the city team consisting of Coleen McDonagh, Denis O'Shea, Tom Sands, Pat Sands, Martin Newell, Gerry Mahony, Emmett Farrell, Liam Sammon, Henry 0' Connor, John McGinley, John Faherty and of course chief scout and caterer Pat McSharry. The mighty Jim Heneghan was always the referée. In the final Fr. Griffins won by 3 points after a close and exciting final played before a large crowd on a beautiful June evening. After the cup presentation both teams journeyed to J. Murphy's and it was extremely late when the team arrived back in Galway all committing themselves to be there in 1974 again.

SHRULE 7-A-SIDE

We also travelled regularly to Shrule for their annual 7-a-side. In 1973 we brought a strong panel to this enjoyable tournament hosted by all the friendly G.A.A. people in Shrule. Team - Martin Newell, Tom Sands, Pat Sands, Pat McSharry, Emmett Farrell, Colie McDonagh, Martin Joe Keane, Gerry Mahony, Denis O'Shea, John Newell.

There were a large number of teams in the 1973 competition and after 4 rounds the two teams to contest the final were on the pitch. It was late evening at this stage and the crowd in the local pitch was tightly packed around the sidelines. Both finalists were from County Galway, newcomers Killererin, led by Billy Joyce, Jarlath Burke and Stephen Flaherty of county team fame and Fr. Griffins who had an experienced panel for 7-a-side competitions. The game was played at a cracking pace throughout with scores being exchanged regularly. In what turned out to be one of the best Shrule finals victory went to Fr. Griffins who had four points to spare at the end.

The 1973 Junior panel was one of the strongest in the club for some years. It had a good mixture of experienced players like goalie Mick Carolan, Pat Houlihan, Henry O'Connor, Billy Joyce and Leo McCaffrey and some very promising young players Gerry Kelly, Kevin McDonagh, Marcus Conroy, Gerry Merrigan and John Faherty. In the league victories over Claregalway, Clifden, Bearna and Spiddal left the team topping the table. In the play off for league final place Eire Og defeated us.

In the championship we reached the semi-final after beating Killanin and Naomh Feichin where we lost to Eire Og who contested the west final against victors Carna who were eventually beaten in the county final by Caltra. The 1973 junior panel which showed great determination and commitment was Mick Carolan, Billy Joyce, Pat Houlihan, Keril Finnerty, Gerry Kelly, John Brown, J. Brophy, Kevin McDonagh, Mike Small, Marcus Conroy, Colm McGouran, B. Belton, Gerry Merrigan, Leo McCaffrey, John Faherty, Jim McGowan, Billy Riordan, Henry O'Connor, Matt Deane John O'Flynn, Denis Flynn, Conor O'Malley.

This was a disappointing year for the Under 21's. The first championship match was against Lettermore and after hectic efforts by team officials a team was organised to field. This team consisted mainly of minors and juveniles but it was good enough to win. In the second round a stronger team took the field to defeat Salthill comfortably. The third match in the Championship was against Clifden. On this particular fixture a number of our Under-21's opted to give first preference to other codes and we were unable to field a team and had to withdraw from the competition.

We were narrowly beaten in the Minor championship by Clonbur. In the league they had a number of victories but were beaten at semi-final stage. This panel had six U-16 players on it. Minor Panel - Michael Kelly, Declan Geraghty, Pat Warde, Paddy Byrne, Bernard O'Connell, Gerry Kelly, Pat Elwood, Kevin Mc Donagh, MacDara Woodman, Billy Murray, Michael Ryan, Tommy Tyrrell, Jim McGowan, Vincent Gilmore, Peter Duggan, Larry Sullivan, Eddie Ward. Gerry Kelly was also a very efficient secretary for the Minor Selection Committee.

PRODUCTS OF THE CITY LEAGUES

The juvenile team of 1973 consisted mainly of players who were playing a lot of games in the very successful city league. A short account of the city leagues might be appropriate here -
The city leagues were started in Galway in the 1950's and continued through the 1960's and into the 1970's. At the end of the 1960's the city was divided into nine areas and each area had its own team; Mervue, Renmore, 98's (which incorporated Woodquay, Bohermore, College Road, Lough Atalia, Eyre Square and the Docks), Western Stars (which included the city centre and the west as far as Nile Lodge), Father Lally's (Shantalla), St. Anthony's (Newcastle), St. Nicholas (the Claddagh), St. Kierans (Salthill) and St. Joseph's Industrial School in Lower Salthill.

Traditionally with the exception of St. Joseph's a Patrician brother would take charge of each area and manage the football teams from that area. In 1967/68 Brother Justin Madden arrived in Galway and took charge of the Western Stars area which eventually incorporated the St. Nicholas area. He started off with an under-12 team in 1969 which won the city league in that year and the same team subsequently won the under-14 (1971), under-16 (1972-73) and under-18 (1974) City Leagues. This team formed part of the nucleus of subsequent Father Griffin juvenile teams and included players like Michael Murphy, Peter Mernagh, Michael Walsh, Mike Ryan, Paul Fallon and Pat O'Connor. 98's were the beaten under-16 finalists in 1973 and some players on that team were Pat Elwood, Tom Richardson, Eddie Ward, Peter Duggan, Pat Walsh, Gerard O'Reilly who all played later with Fr. Griffins. Traditionally 98's and Renmore players would go on to play juvenile football with Fr. Griffins. Footballers from the west and St. Nicholas traditionally played with St. Michaels from that club's foundation. However, Brother Justin became associated with the Fr. Griffins club and as a result of his influence nearly all the Western Stars/St. Nicholas players subsequently played for a few years at least for Fr. Griffins. As a result Fr. Griffins had fairly strong juvenile panels at the beginning of the 1970's. However due to various circumstances they failed to win a county championship at this level in this period. The nearest they came to winning a county juvenile title was in 1973. In this year they beat all opposition by large margins and before the West Board Final against Cois Fharraige they had amassed a total of thirty-seven goals in four outings, and conceded none to any opponents. In one earlier round match against Salthill such was the dominance of Fr. Griffins that one Griffins player scored a point for Salthill amid much laughter from all present.

In the County Semi-Final Fr. Griffins faced Gort who managed to score one goal but in the end Fr. Griffins ran out easy winners. The Final of the 1973 juvenile championship was fixed for three days after the semi-final against Gort. Athenry was the venue and Tommy Larkin's were our opponents. Lady Luck was not with Fr. Griffins on this day as they were one point behind with five minutes left. In those last minutes Michael Murphy our centre forward hit the crossbar twice and another attack with the opponent's goalie out of position the ball landed in a mud patch just short of the goal line and was scrambled clear. Needless to say to lose by one point was very disheartening for all concerned.

The members of the team were Michael Kelly, Michael Walsh, Tom Richardson, Larry O'Sullivan, Eddie Ward, Pat Elwood, Peter Duggan, Peter Mernagh, Mike Ryan (Captain), John Coll, Michael Murphy, John

Flannery, Pat Walsh, Tom Naughton, Gerard O'Reilly, Paul Fallon, John Shaughnessy, Ray Hughes, Tom Flaherty. City League helpers were Mick Dolan, Paddy Higgins, Tom Higgins, Seamus Cox, Michael Monaghan, Father Sean Foy, Pat Drummond, Jim Kilroy, Sean Turke, Pat McSharry, Gerry Kelly (secretary) and Jim McGowan.

CLUB MEMBERS ON THE MOVE

In October 1973 Christy Cunningham, Fr. Griffins experienced fullback was transferred to Dublin by his employers McInerney Builders. To mark the occasion a special function was organised by the club and presentations made to Christy for his loyalty to the Club and to his wife Una. Michael Monaghan, Secretary, PRO and Committee Member was also on the move. Michael who represented the club on many successful quiz teams journeyed to Cavan to take up a teaching post there. Mike Holohan travelled to Dublin also in connection with his profession.

When the 1973 Gaelic Football All-Stars were announced Fr. Griffins were honoured when one of our outstanding players was selected at left half forward. Liam Sammon was selected "for his wholehearted forward play; for his superb direction as captain and trainer which guided Galway into this year's final". He was the only Fr. Griffins player to be an All-Star and the only city gaelic footballer to be so honoured also; he was one of a long line of footballers who learned to play gaelic in the already mentioned city leagues.

Another Fr. Griffins senior footballer was also honoured in 1973 but in a unique way. Martin Newell who played on Galway's three-in-a-row All-Ireland team of the sixties was selected to play on the Connacht Senior Rugby team in the Interprovincial Championship.

RESTRUCTURE OF THE CLUB

At the 1973 A.G.M. Henry O'Connor put forward a proposal to restructure the club. Henry gave a detailed account of his plan and each member present received a copy of the proposal plan. The meeting in general agreed with most of the plan but decided it needed further study. A sub-committee was selected to examine the plan and to report back on their findings to a resumed A.G.M. in January 1974. On this committee were Mick Dolan, Martin Newell, Tom Sands, Pat Drummond, Emmett Farrell and Henry O'Connor. Their findings were discussed at the resumed A.G.M. and the Club was to be structured on the following lines -

The Club to consist of the following divisions:
1. Chairman
2. Executive
3. General Members
with the following an honourary position – President.

Executive members to have responsibility for one aspect of club affairs and to have the power to set up committees and to enlist the help of general members.
The executive to consist of eight members and each one in charge of the following club divisions –

Secretaryship	Council Liaison
Finance	Social Activities
Games / Teams	Developments
Public Relations	Grounds

The duties of each division were clearly defined and members were then elected to fill all the positions.

At the Presentation of County Medals 1975 were three brothers and Club Chairman: To m Sands (Captain), Pat Sands, Henry O'Connor, Donal Sands.

1974
Officers and Committee

President	S. Turke
Vice-President –	
Chairman	H. O'Connor
Vice-Chairman	S. Cox
Treasurer	P. Higgins
P.R.O.	S. Lawless
Council Liaison Officer	S. Cox
Director of Games	M. Newell
Director of Social Act.	M. O'Sullivan
Director of Development	L. Sammon
Director of Grounds	J. Kilroy
Captain	G. Mahony
Vice-Captain	C. McDonagh
Junior Captain	Billy Joyce
Under-21	Kevin McDonagh
Vice-Captain	G. Kelly
Registrar	P. Higgins
Minor/Junior	P. McSharry
Under-21	P. Drummond
Junior	B. Joyce
Senior	M. Newell
Trainers	L. Sammon, H. O'Connor

The new club structure agreed upon at the resumed A.G.M. in 1974 augured well for the upcoming year. Plans were being drawn up to help the club find a base for itself and to achieve success in the various competitions and activities which the club had entered.

Congratulations to Fr. Griffins

from

Royal Tara

FINE BONE CHINA – IRELAND

Tara Hall, Galway, Ireland.

Telephone (091) 51301 (5 lines) Telex 50027 Fax No. (091) 57574

A GALWAY TRADITION

WEST BOARD LEAGUE COMMENCES

In the Senior West Board league Fr. Griffins were placed in Group I containing Killanin agus An Ghaeltacht. In the second group Oughterard, Moycullen, U.C.G. and St. Michael's had to contest games to find the top two teams in this group. Fr. Griffins first match was against Killanin in Carnmore in early April. Fr. Griffins always find it difficult to beat Killanin and this game proved no different, this despite the fact that Fr. Griffins were victorious over Killanin the previous Sunday in a different competition. In this particular match Killanin proved the stronger in the end and after a tough game Killanin scored 1-11 and Fr. Griffins 1-9.

The next match for Fr. Griffins in this competition was played on the last Sunday of July against a team drawn from five clubs in the Gaeltacht area. Fr. Griffins had to win this match as the two top teams from both groups qualified for the semi-finals and Killanin had already beaten An Gaeltacht and Fr. Griffins. This game against An Gaeltacht was played at Lettermore and was a repeat of a match played in March when the Lettermore pitch was officially opened; on that occasion An Gaeltacht proved too strong for Fr. Griffins and won by three points. The 1974 West Board League match against An Ghaeltacht was a complete contrast to the previous meeting. Fr. Griffins dominated from the start and won out rather easily, the score being Fr. Griffins 2-8, An Ghaeltacht 1-5.

This victory meant Fr. Griffins were into the semi-final and were drawn to play Moycullen in Pearse Stadium on October 13th 1974. For this game Fr. Griffins fielded a strong team and in an entertaining game which produced many passages of fast open football, Fr. Griffins showed their determination to win a place in the final in their attempt to retain the West Board Crown. Final score Fr. Griffins 4-9 Moycullen 1-3.

On the first Sunday in December Fr. Griffins and Killanin met in the 1974 West Board League final at Carnmore. Killanin had already beaten Fr. Griffins in this league in April so a close contest was expected. Killanin had the help of a strong wind in the first half and after many attacks they had only two points scored, Fr. Griffins defence were playing inspired stuff with Jim McMahon and full back Denis O'Shea clearing all that Killanin could send in and if by chance any ball passed the backs the ever reliable John McGinley was there to clear. His long kickouts against the wind were a decided advantage to the team and on many occasions put Fr. Griffins in attacking positions. Points by Liam Sammon, Gerry Mahony and Jim Noone left Fr. Griffins leaders 0-3 to 0-2 near the end of the first half. Then Fr. Griffins suffered a set-back when their centre back Pat Sands suffered a foot injury and had to go

off. This gave the Killanin attack some advantage which they failed to capitalise on. Half-time score was Fr. Griffins 0-3 Killanin 0-2; Fr. Griffins now had wind advantage and in three early attacks Denis Flynn, Jim Noone and Emmett Farrell scored points and a brilliant save by Gerry Lydon deprived Emmett Farrell of a goal. However the Killanin defence was under constant pressure and during this pressure two Fr. Griffins players Denis Flynn and Jim Noone could do nothing wrong. Denis Flynn scored a goal and two points, one with his left boot, and the next with his right from far out on the wing. Jim Noone showed his tremendous speed and pressurised overworked Killanin defenders into mistakes and he worked off these mistakes himself to score points and to create chances for colleagues. Fr. Griffins attack were scoring at will and only a tremendous display by Gerry Lydon prevented a much greater defeat. Final score Fr. Griffins 1-13 Killanin 1-2, the Killanin goal coming in the last minute of the game. Fr. Griffins stars in this game were John McGinley, Denis O'Shea Pat McSharry, Jim McMahon, Pat Sands until injured, Johnny Faherty at centrefield and forwards Liam Sammon, Denis Flynn, Jim Noone, Emmett Farrell and Coleen McDonagh. After the game Gerry Mahony Fr. Griffins Captain received the magnificent Golden Jubilee 1934 Cup from the Chairman of the West Board Tom Lenihan.

In the 1974 county league Fr. Griffins were grouped with Annaghdown, Killanin, Moycullen, Dunmore and Milltown. Our first match in this league was against Annaghdown in Pearse Stadium on 24 March. The first half was very close all through with Annaghdown having more possession but not putting it to good use, in fact they had eight wides to Fr. Griffins one, the scores at half time were 0-6 for Annaghdown, 0-4 for Fr. Griffins. A short time into the second half saw Annaghdown getting a goal, this put Annaghdown five points up. After this incident Fr. Griffins made some positional switches and shortly afterwards Gerry Mahony sent a high ball into the Annaghdown goal area where Johnny Faherty rose highest to finish it to the net, Denis Flynn added another point. Further points from Fr. Griffins via Mahony (0-3), Flynn (0-1) and Mike Small (0-1) finished the scoring for Fr. Griffins.
Final score Annaghdown 1-8 Fr. Griffins 1-10.
Team - John McGinley, Pat McSharry, Denis O'Shea, Tom Sands, Jody Moran, Kevin McDonagh, Colie McDonagh, Gerry Merrigan, Denis Flynn 0-2, Leo McCaffrey, Jim Noone, Gerry Mahony 0-6, Johnny Faherty 1-1, Pat Harrington, Michael Small 0-1.

Late '70s in Mountbellew. A group of senior team players with Mick Dowling. Back row, from left: Jim Noone, Mick Carolan, Pat Sands, Hubert Deane, Donal Sands, Tom Aherne, Donal O'Sullivan. Front row: Vinny Gilmore, Brendan O'Shea, Gerry Mahony, Martin Geraghty, Mick Dowling.

Some members at the 1975 Presentation of County Medals. Back row, from left: Seamus O'Gorman, Mick Sullivan, Sean Lawless (R.I.P.), Finbar Staunton (R.I.P.), Brendan O'Shea. Front row: Tom O'Neill, John McGinley, Tom Sands, Henry O'Connor, Paddy Higgins.

The second game was played the last Sunday of April against Killanin in Pearse Stadium. Fr. Griffins coasted to a comfortable win in this particular game. At half-time the scores stood at 1-3 for Fr. Griffins 0-4 to Killanin. The second half saw Fr. Griffins totally dominant and a total of 1-8 was added to their half time score. The goal was scored by Jim Noone in the first half and one in the second half by Liam Sammon who also scored 0-4. Full-time score 2-11 to 1-7. John McGinley, Tom Sands, Colie McDonagh, Liam Sammon, Denis Flynn and Jim Noone were stars for Fr. Griffins.

The match against Moycullen was played in February 1975 nearly a year after the first match in the same league against Annaghdown. This game was played in Pearse Stadium. It was a very entertaining game with the winners getting a quarter-final place against Dunmore. Moycullen started well and raced into a seven point lead before Pat Sands opened Fr. Griffins account with a point. Jim Noone then scored a goal and both teams scored two more points each to leave the half-time scores Moycullen 2-3 Fr. Griffins 1-4. After six minutes of the second half the sides were level, Hubert Deane and Gerry Mahony getting the two points for Fr. Griffins. Leo McCaffrey added another for Fr. Griffins but almost immediately Murty Davoren equalised for Moycullen. Fr. Griffins added another four points via Coleen McDonagh (2), Leo McCaffrey and Gerry Mahony. Moycullen scored one more point with five minutes left. The final score was Fr. Griffins 1-11 Moycullen 2-5.

Team - John McGinley, John Lowry, Denis O'Shea, Jody Moran, Pat McSharry, Jim McMahon, Colie McDonagh (0-2), Pat Sands 0-1, Emmett Farrell 0-1, Liam Sammon, Jim Noone 1-0, Leo McCaffrey 0-4, Denis Flynn, Gerry Mahony, H. Deane.

This victory meant Fr. Griffins were two games away from a league final. On March 9th 1975 Fr. Griffins and Dunmore met in Pearse Stadium. There was a strong wind blowing into the town goal and Fr. Griffins had first advantage. Fr. Griffins played well in this game and using the wind to good advantage were leading 2-4 to 0-2 at half-time. The main features in the first half were the goals of Liam Sammon from a penalty and a blistering shot from midfielder Pat Sands who soloed twenty yards before finding the net. Dunmore shot wide from a penalty in this first half. Being led by eight points at the start of the second half meant that Dunmore had a big task ahead and in true Dunmore fashion they tried everything they could to catch up, four points in a row by E. Glennon (0-3) and M. Geraghty (0-1) left them four points behind. Midway through the second half Denis Flynn scored a Griffins goal and this score seemed to spur Dunmore who immediately got a goal

by Frank Ward. This was Dunmore's last score. Fr. Griffins added two more points to win by 3-6 to 1-6.
Team - John McGinley, J. Lowry, D. O'Shea, Jody Moran, Pat Mc Sharry, Jim McMahon, Gerry Kelly, Hubert Deane, Pat Sands 1-0, Colie McDonagh, Liam Sammon 1-2, Jim Noone, Leo McCaffrey 0-1, D. Flynn 1-0, Gerry Mahony 0-3.

Fr. Griffins were now through to the semi-final of the 1974 County League and their opponents were Caltra. The match was played in Tuam Stadium on Sunday 16th March 1975, fifty-one weeks after Fr. Griffins played their first match in the series. The game was fast and open but both sets of forwards wasted many opportunities to take scores chiefly through overplaying the ball and trying to work it inside the 14 yard line before attempting a shot. In the first half Caltra were the stronger team and this reflected in the half-time score where they lead 1-3 to 0-1. Positional switches by Fr. Griffins mentors improved the situation somewhat but scores were still difficult to get and points from Liam Sammon, Leo McCaffrey and Denis Flynn were the only scores for Fr. Griffins in the second half. Caltra scored two points but this was enough to see them win 1-5 to 0-4. This was a disappointing display by Fr. Griffins but Liam Sammon, Colie McDonagh, Pat McSharry, Jim McMahon, Pat Sands and Emmett Farrell tried hardest all through.
Team - J. McGinley, P. McSharry, Barney Costello, Jody Moran, G. Kelly, J. McMahon, C. McDonagh, P. Sands, H. Deane, E. Farrell, L. Sammon 0-2, J. Noone, L. McCaffrey 0-1, D. Flynn 0-1, G. Mahony.
Caltra were defeated in the 1974 league final by Milltown.

The first match in the 1974 championship was played on 26/4/74 in Kenny Park, Athenry. The opposition was a selection from Loughrea/Sarsfield. The game was played in very poor weather conditions and the football suffered as a result. Fr. Griffins opened the scoring with Emmett Farrell landing two points, this was followed by a goal from Conor O'Malley. Two more Griffins points before half-time left the score 1-5 to 0-4. In the second half many scoring chances were wasted by both teams; two points from L. Sammon and three more from Pat Sands put Fr. Griffins in a strong position entering the final quarter. Pat Sands added a goal after a short passing movement in the forwards, this completed the scoring and Fr. Griffins had excellent defenders in John McGinley (goalie), Denis O'Shea, John Lowery, Pat McSharry, Jim McMahon, Liam Sammon and Hubert Deane at midfield and in attack Pat Sands, Miko Nolan, Conor O'Malley and Liam Sammon.

Team – J. McGinley, J. McMahon, T. Sands, D. O'Shea, P. McSharry J. Lowery, J. Moran, L. Sammon 0–4, H. Deane, J. Noone, P. Sands 1–3, Miko Nolan, E. Farrell 0–2, D. Flynn, C. O'Malley 1–1. Final score – 2–10 to 0–5.

Fr. Griffins next opponents in the championship were Tuam Stars and this match took place in Tuam Stadium in June 1974. The game was only started when Tuam attacked the Fr. Griffins goal and after a challenge in the goal area a penalty was awarded to Tuam. T.J. Mullins scored. Further Tuam pressure brought a goal by Tom Lane. This seemed to wake Fr. Griffins who immediately scored points from Sammon and Mahony and a good goal from Pat Sands. Fr. Griffins started to settle down after this and Sammon and Tobin exchanged points. Disaster then struck Fr. Griffins, a poor kick-out was fielded by the unmarked Lane and he made no mistake to leave the half-time score 3–3 to 1–4. On the restart Tuam added another point to leave Fr. Griffins six points adrift. G. Mahony pointed three frees to leave three points separating the teams. The Tuam defence was under constant pressure and two more points from Mahony narrowed the gap. However Tuam regained some composure and scored two more points to leave them in a good position. Emmett Farrell's point left a two point gap. Try as they did Fr. Griffins were unable to get the vital goal to win the game and so were out of the 1974 championship. Tom Sands, Denis O'Shea and Colie McDonagh were blameless for this defeat, at midfield H. Deane did well but L. Sammon failed to show his class. In the forwards Pat Sands, Emmett Farrell, Denis Flynn and Gerry Mahony gave their best.
Final score Tuam Stars 3–6 Fr. Griffins 1–10.
Team – J. McGinley, T. Sands, D. O'Shea, J. McMahon, P. McSharry J. Lowry, C. McDonagh, L. Sammon 0–2, H. Deane, M. Nolan, P. Sands 1–0, J. Noone, E. Farrell 0–1, D. Flynn, G. Mahony 0–7.

LETTERMORE PITCH OPENING

Fr. Griffins Senior team were invited to take part in the opening ceremonies of Lettermore's new pitch at Maumeen on 31/3/74. In the main match of the day they were playing a Gaeltacht selection for Corn James Philbin a bhí bronnta ag Connemara Gaels New York. The match referee was Dr. Mick Loftus (Mayo). The opening ceremony and the two games were broadcast live on Raidió na Gaeltachta. It was a good occasion for the Lettermore club and after the official opening the Tiernee National School Band led the parade before both games. A special programme was produced for the event and many emigrants had returned for the big day all of which added to the spectacle. The match

1975 Medals Presentation. Back row, from left: Liam Sammon, Denis O'Shea, Denis Flynn, Hubert Deane, Pat McSharry, Pat Sands, Barney Costello, Pat Elwood, Ciaran Smith, Pat Kelly, John McGinley, Ray McDonagh, Henry O'Connor. Front row: Leo McCaffrey, Brendan O'Shea, To m Sands, Jim Carney, Gerry Mahony, Gerry Kelly, Colie McDonagh, Donal Sands.

between Gaeltacht Connamara agus Athair ó Griofa was a close game all through with the lead exchanged frequently. At the final whistle Gaeltacht Connemara 1-8, Athair O'Griofa 1-7. After the game there was a very enjoyable meal for all the teams where souvenir trophies were presented to winners and losers.

The Junior team were drawn in a league group with Clifden, Barna, Clonbur and Killanin in a grade which contained nineteen teams. In the league 2 victories, a draw and a defeat left the team in the play-off for league honours but in the knock-out stages they were eventually beaten by An Spideal.

In the Junior Championship after the first round a winners and losers group was formed. Fr. Griffins met Clonbur in the first round and although Clonbur were the favourites Fr. Griffins defeated them 3-7 to 2-5. Their second match in the championship was against Lettermore. This game took place in Oughterard on 9/6/74. After leading by eight points at half-time (4-3 to 1-4) Fr. Griffins were lucky to survive in the second half when Lettermore had narrowed the gap to one point when the final whistle was blown.

Final score was Fr. Griffins 5-4 Lettermore 2-12. Scorers for Fr. Griffins in this game were Donal Sands 2-1, Leo McCaffrey 1-0, Gerry Merrigan 1-0, Pat Harrington 1-0, Tadgh McDonagh 0-2, Johnny Faherty 0-1.

In the third round of the championship Spiddal were our opponents. This match took place in Pearse Stadium on July 7th. Spiddal had displayed potential in previous matches and a close game was expected. The first half was played in a very competitive manner and at half-time Spiddal were two points ahead. In the second half however Spiddal got some early scores which seemed to unsettle Fr Griffins who lost confidence in themselves and Spiddal won well in the end.

Final score - Spiddal 2-16, Fr. Griffins 1-8.

Panel - Mick Carolan, Billy Joyce (capt.), Pat Houlihan, Barney Costello, Gerry Kelly, Kevin McDonagh, Mike Small, Colm McGowan, Rae Gilmore, Leo McCaffrey, John Faherty, Gerry Merrigan, Tadgh McDonagh, Pat Harrington, Donal Sands.

Spiddal won the West Board title and went on to win county honours in the 1974 Junior grade.

The club Minor team were placed in a group containing Barna, St. Michaels, Renmore (first year in the competition) and Salthill. There were four groups altogether with the winner of each group into

semi-finals. Fr. Griffins had mixed luck in this league and reached the semi-final where they lost to Carna in a very close game.

In the minor championship the teams first round opponents were Oughterard. This match was played at Carnmore and Fr. Griffins scored 4-7 to Oughterard's 2-9. The second round opponents were Claregalway. This match took place on Saturday 29/6/74 in Carnmore and Fr. Griffins won this game and as a result were now in the semi-final. Opponents in this game were Cois Fharraige. A strong Cois Fharraige team beat Fr. Griffins who were unlucky in some of their shots at goal. Cois Fharraige won the West title.

Minor panel - Mike Kelly, Larry Sullivan, Declan Geraghty, Ger O'Reilly, Tom Richardson, Vincent Gilmore, Peter Mernagh, Macdara Woodman, John Coll, Peter Duggan, Mike Murphy, Tom Naughton, Jim McGowan, Tom Flaherty, Mike Walsh, Paul Fallon, O. Walsh.

O. Walsh played for Galway Minor league team V Roscommon at centre forward on the 20/4/74.

The Juvenile panel in 1974 was considered to be very strong and consisted of the following players - Michael Walshe, John Byrne, John Shaughnessy, Ray Hughes, Peter Mernagh, Eddie Ward, Tom Richardson, Eric Keane, Michael Heaney, Francis Hennigan, Gerard Flanagan, Kevin Cooney, Niall Elwood, John Lyons, Frankie McGowan, Billy McGowan, Ray Conlon, Pat O'Connor, Andrew Heffernan, Paul Fallon, Pat Walshe.

They won most of their league games easily and got a walk-over from Salthill and qualified to meet St. Michaels in the semi-final. This match took place at South Park on Thursday 25th July and was one of the best matches ever seen at juvenile level in the city. It surpassed the draw match which was played the previous week. It was a pity one side had to lose and unfortunately it was Fr Griffins by one point. However some satisfaction was gained when St. Michaels won the West Board title and went on to win the county title.

Managers - Pat McSharry, Gerry Kelly, Jim McGowan.

In the Under-21 Championship Fr. Griffins first defeated Claregalway in Pearse Stadium on 5/4/74 by 2-9 to 3-1. In the second round a fixture against Salthill ended in a draw. In the replay however Fr. Griffins won which put them into the semi-final. Their opponents in this game were Micheal Breathnach's. In the end Fr. Griffins won and they faced Oughterard in the West final. This final was played on 25/8/74 in Pearse Stadium. In the first half Oughterard had first use of a near gale force wind. All the play in the first half was in the Fr. Griffins end of the field. Some sterling defence by the Fr. Griffins

full-back line kept the scores down but even with this Oughterard led 1-8 to 0-0 at half-time. Oughterard also dominated the second half and Fr. Griffins failed to score until the twenty-fourth minute of the second half when substitute Paul Geraghty who replaced Pat Elwood scored a point. Soon after Rory Woodman scored another point leaving Fr. Griffins total for the game 0-2. Oughterard added two more goals nearing the end and they finished with a total of 3-11 for a convincing win. Kevin McDonagh (capt.), Mike Ryan, Hubert Deane, Gerry Kelly, Pat O'Brien and Jim McGowan never gave up in spite of the odds. Oughterard won the county title afterwards.

GRIFFINS CELEBRATE WITH GREAT WIN IN CASTLEREA SEVENS

1974 saw Fr. Griffins accept invitations to participate in three seven-a-side competitions Castlerea, Dunmore and Kilmacud in Dublin. No success was achieved in Dunmore or Dublin. The Kilmacud tournament played on the Saturday prior to the All-Ireland Football final saw a first round knock-out for the Griffins seven. The game was level at the end of normal time but on a penalty shoot-out Fr. Griffins lost on the last kick of the penalties. A similar fate occurred in Dunmore. The Castlerea tournament always brought out the best in Fr. Griffins and in the previous two years we got to the semi-final and final but failed to win. 1974 was to be different however and with astute management by Martin Newell the team beat all comers. In the first round Gortletragh from Leitrim were beaten, next game was against the holders and local club Castlerea St. Kevins who fielded five of the current Roscommon County team. This was a tremendous game and after being led 3-3 to 1-1 at one stage Fr. Griffins stormed back to win 3-5 to 3-4 in a thrilling encounter. In the semi-final Fr. Griffins came up against a very young and eager Roscommon Gaels team. This was a marathon game with two periods of extra time needed to decide the issue. In the end Fr. Griffins scored 1-21 to Roscommon Gaels 5-7. Gerry Mahony scored 16 of the Fr. Griffins points. In the other half of the draw U.C.G. with a talent laden team came through to contest the final.

In an exciting final when all the best aspects of 7-a-side football were evident Fr. Griffins won by three points 5-2 to 3-5. After the match the teams were dined in the magnificent club facilities by the ladies committee. The presentation of trophies took place later that evening and it was early the next day when the team and officials arrived back in Galway.

Panel - Pat McSharry, Henry O'Connor, Hubert Deane, Tom Sands, Leo McCaffrey, Matt Deane, Colie McDonagh, Pat Sands, Liam Sammon,

Donal Sands, Denis O'Shea, Gerry Mahony, Emmett Farrell. Manager – Martin Newell.

"A policeman's lot is a happy one". Two members of An Garda Siochana at the 1975 Presentation of County Championship Medals and the over 30s v. under 30s Plaques Presentation. Tom Sands holding County Football Cup and Mick Dowling with his Award.

Best of luck to Fr. Griffins

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LACK OF TRAINING CAUSE OF GRIFFIN'S FAILURE

Report from Paper

Lack of training in preparation for matches was one of the main reasons for Fr. Griffin's failure to win any major championship in 1974. So said club chairman Henry O'Connor in his address to the annual general meeting last week. Mr. O'Connor said he was disappointed with the progress made at Pearse Stadium but explained that this was not due to any lack of endeavour but to "unforseen problems". Referring to press reports during the year which criticised the Stadium facilities Mr. O'Connor said these only gave rise to bad feeling and that encouragement for future improvements are a more positive means of ensuring future development. Mr. O'Connor said that rumours that the club refused to allow the Connacht All-Blacks match to be played in the Stadium were completely unfounded as they had not been approached at any time to have the game played there. Mr. O'Connor concluded by thanking the officers who had served the club so well in the last year and the members who gave so much of their time to a voluntary organisation.

Outgoing secretary Michael Dolan said that despite their failure to win any championship, nevertheless it was a very successful year. The senior team retained the West Board championship by beating Killanin and were also winners of the Connacht 7-a-side championship. Wins over Killanin, Annaghdown and Dunmore left the club in a sound position in the county league and they look forward to their first success in this competition since 1953. Although their first round senior championship defeat by Tuam Stars was a heavy blow, they hoped that the club will learn from this and be back next year with a greater determination for victory.

Mr. Dolan said the junior team had the best season to date when after a good start they fell to Spiddal who went on to become county champions. The under-21 team also fell to eventual county champions, being defeated by Oughterard.

The secretary said that perhaps the greatest disappointment of the whole year was the defeat of the juvenile footballers by St. Michaels.

The following officers and committee were elected:

President	Sean Turke
Chairman	Henry O'Connor
Vice-Chairman	Tom Sands
Secretary	Miss Pat Feeney
Treasurer	Paddy Higgins
P.R.O.	Sean Lawless
Council Liaison Officer	John Flaherty
Dir. of Social Activities	Michael O'Sullivan
Dir. of Club Development	Liam Sammon
Dir. of Grounds	Jim Kilroy
Registrar	Emmet Farrell
Senior Team Manager	Gerry Mahony
Senior Captain	Tom Sands
Vice-Captain	Pat McSharry
Junior Team Manager	Billy Joyce
Junior Captain	Matthew Deane
Vice-Captain	Mick Carolan
Under-21 Captain	Kevin McDonagh
Vice-Captain	Gerry Reilly
Minor/Juvenile Manager	Pat McSharry.

The club committee consists of the officers and the following members Tom Higgins, Paddy Doherty, Mick Carolan, Miss Meana Connolly and Miss Margaret Colleran.

Being the holders (1974) of the Connacht Seven-a-Side title Fr. Griffins were anxious to defend the title in 1975. Fr. Griffins had organised a strong panel again this year and in the first match on Easter Sunday they played Castlebar and after a close first half the experienced Griffins ran out easy winners on a 2-12 to 2-1 scoreline. The second game on the Sunday was against old rivals Roscommon Gaels. This was another close game with Fr. Griffins scoring 2-9, Ros. Gaels 2-6. This put Fr. Griffins into the semi-final on Easter Monday. The opponents this time being Mountbellew. The score at the end of this semi-final was Griffins 1-7 Mountbellew 0-4 but the game was more closely contested than the scores indicate. In the other semi-final local team Castlerea St. Kevins had beaten Corofin.

In the 1975 final Castlerea got off to a great start and had three goals scored before Griffins registered their first. At half-time Castlerea led by seven points. Gradually Fr. Griffins cut the lead and with five minutes left the scores were level. Two points in the closing seconds

won the game for Castlerea, score - 4-6 to Fr. Griffins 2-10. After the tournament in the O'Rourke Centre the Bank of Ireland sponsored trophies were presented to both finalists and the teams were served refreshments by the ladies committee.

The Griffins team was drawn in group A for the County Senior League in 1975. In this group also were Tuam Stars, U.C.G., Dunmore, Caltra, Corofin, Milltown and Mountbellew. The first game was played against Tuam Stars in Pearse Stadium on 6th April. The Griffins team on duty was John McGinley, Jim McMahon Tom Sands, Barney Costello, Pat McSharry, Pat Sands, Gerry Kelly Emmett Farrell, Denis O'Shea, Leo McCaffrey, Liam Sammon, Colie McDonagh, Ray McDonagh, Jim McGowan, Gerry Mahony. Griffins had wind advantage in the first half but only led by 0-4 at half time. This was due to over-elaboration by the forwards when more direct methods would suit better. Tuam got through for shots at goal but all were saved by the dependable John McGinley. Despite Tuam pressure Griffins were always able to keep ahead. This was due to great displays by midfielder Denis O'Shea and forward Colie McDonagh. Indeed Colie engineered the penalty which made victory certain for Griffins when he was fouled going through. Liam Sammon scored from the kick. The final score was Fr. Griffins 1-10 Tuam Stars 0-7. In subsequent league matches we lost to U.C.G. in Pearse Stadium, drew with Dunmore in Dunmore and had victories over Mountbellew, Milltown and Corofin. The points gained from these league matches put us into a semi-final Division I match against Caltra in Corofin. We had defeated this team in the county final in September so hopes were high of another victory. The pitch was heavy and a cross-wind blowing. Caltra had first use of the breeze and at half-time had 0-5 on the scoreboard. Fr. Griffins mainly through the hard work of Liam Sammon and Gerry Mahony had only 0-2 scored - 2 frees by Gerry Mahony. At the start of the second half another Mahony point brought the teams closer but Caltra got three quick scores which included a goal and this left Griffins with a lot to do. Numerous bad wides from good positions frustrated the Griffins followers. Griffins however battled on and after three more Mahony points there was only a goal in it but with time running out for Fr. Griffins Caltra held on to win by 1-9 to 0-8. All Fr. Griffins points came from Gerry Mahony (0-4 from play and 0-4 from frees). Liam Sammon Emmett Farrell, Ciaran Smith and Gerry Mahony were best of the midfield attack. In defence Pat McSharry, Jim McMahon and Tom Sands did well.

Team - J. McGinley, T. Sands, Brendan O'Shea, Jim McMahon, Pat McSharry, Pat Sands, Barney Costello, Jim Noone, Emmett Farrell,

Liam Sammon, Ciaran Smith, Ray McDonagh, Colie McDonagh, Denis Flynn, Gerry Mahony (0-8).
Caltra qualified to play Tuam Stars in the final.

On the last Sunday of March our Under-21 footballers were in action against the holders Oughterard in Carnmore. Despite playing to the best of their ability this very young Griffins team lost no face in defeat by a much stronger Oughterard outfit. Final score - Fr. Griffins 1-2 Oughterard 1-15.

In the West Board Junior league Fr. Griffins opponents were Claregalway, Na Piarsaigh, Renmore, Clifden and Lettermore. Fr. Griffins first game was against Renmore and in the end Fr. Griffins scored 2-8 to Renmore 0-6. After this good start Fr. Griffins had further victories over Claregalway and Na Piarsaigh before losing the game against Clifden on 8th June 1-13 to 0-8. Fr. Griffins best match in this league was against Lettermore in Lettermore. Fr. Griffins needed to win this game to force a play-off against Clifden for winners of the group and entry to the semi-finals. However, after an enjoyable game the match ended in a draw 2-8 for Griffins and 1-11 for Lettermore. Fr. Griffins were out of the junior league.
In the Junior Championship Fr. Griffins first round opponents were Carna. This game ended in a fine victory for Fr. Griffins 0-13 to 1-6. This Junior Championship consisted of 21 teams. After the first round the winners were into one group and the losers into another and the competition continued on a knockout basis after that. In the next championship match Fr. Griffins were drawn against Oughterard and lost this game 2-7 to 1-4 and so championship hopes for 1975 were lost.

In the Minor Football League group were Renmore, St. Michaels, Fr. Griffins, Salthill, Barna. In the first game against Salthill the minor team received a walkover, in the next two games against Barna and Renmore the team had comfortable victories, this left the last game in the group against St. Michael's as the one to win to gain entry into the West Board final. On 13/7/75 at St. Mary's College Fr. Griffins and St. Michaels met in this important league match. The match was evenly contested all-through with some excellent individual displays by P. Elwood, K. Smith and Paul Fallon for Griffins and Noel Colohan, Tony Murphy and J. Wynne for St. Michaels. The scores were level at 0-7 for Griffins and 1-4 for St. Michaels. In a St. Michaels attack a fierce drive from Martin Flannery came back from the post and was finished to the net by John Wynne. In the last attack St. Michaels scored another point to leave the final score St. Michaels 2-5 Fr. Griffins 0-7.

Team - Mike Kelly, Niall Elwood, Eddie Ward, R. Hughes, Peter Duggan, Tom Richardson, Gerry Reilly, Mike Ryan, Kieran Smith, Paul Fallon 0-5, Pat Elwood 0-2, Mike Walsh, J. O'Byrne, Pat Walsh, D. Higgins.
St. Michaels won the West Board Final afterwards. Fr. Griffins goalie Michael Kelly played in goal for Galway Minors in 1975.

In the Minor Championship Fr. Griffins first opponents were Clonbur. This game failed to take place - walkover for Fr. Griffins. The next match was against Renmore, Griffins scored 1-10 to Renmore's 1-2. In South Park in August Fr. Griffins defeated Cois Fharraige 4-6 to 0-16. The team were now in the quarter final and the opponents were Spiddal.

Eighteen clubs entered teams in this year's Juvenile competition. They were divided into four groups. In Fr. Griffins group were Claregalway, Eire Og, Mervue and St. Michaels (holders). Each team to play other teams in the group. The winner of the group to go into the semi-finals. Fr. Griffins and St. Michaels were expected to do well in this competition and many city followers were disappointed they were drawn in the same league group. Recent matches at juvenile level between these two clubs had produced outstanding fare. Both St. Michaels and Fr. Griffins beat all other teams in the group and it all depended on who would win between them to reach the semi-final. On 13th July at Pearse Stadium both sides faced each other. It was another thrilling encounter. The highlight of the game was the mid-field tussle between Michael's Tony Murphy and Fr. Griffins Paul Fallon. Both showed tremendous skill and commitment over the hour. Fr. Griffins led most of the way but St. Michaels drew level with ten minutes remaining and four points secured victory for St. Michaels. Outstanding for Griffins were Paul Fallon, John Shaughnessy and Pat O'Connor.
Final score was Fr. Griffins 3-3, St. Michaels 3-7.
Team - John Sullivan, Tom Connolly, Andrew Heffernan, Martin Connolly, Mike Heaney, Francis Hennigan, T. Howley, Paul Fallon 1-2, Pat O'Connor, Sean Lyons, John Shaughnessy 2-1, P. Brady, Tony Ryan, Eddie Ward, J. O'Donnell.
St. Michaels later won out the juvenile competition.

When the first round draw for the Senior Football Championship was made Fr. Griffins and Dunmore were paired to meet at Tuam Stadium on Sunday 22nd June. This was expected to be the match of the year but in fact it was a disappointing display for the large crowd that turned up. The main highlight and turning point of the game was the brilliant penalty save by Fr. Griffins goalie Johnny McGinley from Dunmore ace John Keenan. Johnny saved the original kick, saw it rebound to

President Mick Dowling presenting the Clubman of the Year Award to Editor Paddy O'Brien while Chairman Mick Dolan looks on with approval.

Scor Question Time Team receiving trophies. From left: Kevin O'Sullivan, Michael Monaghan, Sean Lawless, Seamus Cox, Sean Turke.

Keenan who kicked it towards the corner but somehow McGinley dived to stop this also. This seemed to be the spark that Griffins needed because from this incident on their play improved so much that they almost scored at will.
Final score Fr. Griffins 1-11 Dunmore 1-6.
Team - J. McGinley, J. McMahon, B. Costello, T. Sands (capt.), P. McSharry, P. Sands, G. Kelly, D. O'Shea, H. Deane, L. Sammon 0-5, J. Noone 0-1, D. Flynn 0-1, Ray McDonagh 1-0, E. Farrell, G. Mahony 0-4, sub. J. Moran for T. Sands.

On the last Sunday of July Fr. Griffins faced An Spideal in round two of the championship in Pearse Stadium. With the breeze in their backs Griffins raced into 1-3 to no score lead after seven minutes, Denis Flynn punching a Colie McDonagh cross to the net, brother Ray McDonagh notching up two points and Gerry Mahony one. Griffins were on top at midfield where Denis O'Shea and Hubert Deane were lording over the opposition. Further points by Flynn and Sammon and a goal by Colie McDonagh seemed to give Fr. Griffins a false sense of victory as Spiddal slipped in to score two quick goals and a point just before half time leaving the score 2-8 to 2-1. In the second half an early goal by Denis Flynn killed off the Spiddal challenge and after two more Griffins points the rest of the game was only of academic interest. Final score - 3-11 to 2-3. Best for Griffins were Brendan O'Shea, Jody Moran, Hubert Deane, Denis O'Shea at midfield and Ray and Colie McDonagh and Denis Flynn in attack.
Team - J. McGinley, Brendan O'Shea, B. Costello, Jody Moran, P. McSharry, P. Sands, G. Kelly, D. O'Shea, H. Deane, L. Sammon 0-2 R. McDonagh 0-2, C. McDonagh 1-0, J. Noone, D. Flynn 2-1, G. Mahony 0-5.
Subs. Leo McCaffrey for J. Noone, Matt Deane for L. Sammon, Donal Sands for G. Mahony.

Fr. Griffins were now into the semi-final where their opponents were Milltown. This game took place in Tuam Stadium on the last Sunday in August. This turned out to be a hard championship game with fortunes changing regularly and plenty of goal mouth tussles. The first fifteen minutes were even with both teams swapping scores. In the latter part of the first half Fr. Griffins forwards scored a succession of beautiful points and at half time lead by 0-8 to 0-3. After the resumption Milltown played with more urgency and four quick points seemed to unsettle Griffins. In one attack however Griffins gained the upper hand again. This occurred when a massive clearance by Pat Sands found Denis Flynn who was fouled. From the penalty Liam Sammon

scored a goal. This was short lived however as straight away Milltown attacked and they were awarded a penalty. Gay McManus struck the ball but Johnny McGinley saved the kick which deflected into the air, a goalmouth melee occurred and the referee awarded a second penalty. Milltown changed their kicker this time and Joe Waldron's kick just evaded McGinley's right hand. Milltown's joy was short-lived as Fr. Griffins quickly attacked and the ball was worked into Jim Noone and he scored the best goal of the game. After this exciting bout of play Griffins seemed more composed and try as Milltown did they could not break through the middle where Pat Sands had an outstanding game.
Final score - Fr. Griffins 2-10, Milltown 1-8.
Team - J. McGinley, J. McMahon, B. Costello, Jody Moran, P. McSharry, P. Sands, G. Kelly, D. O'Shea, H. Deane, L. Sammon 1-4 R. McDonagh 0-1, C. McDonagh, J. Noone 1-0, D. Flynn 0-1, G. Mahony 0-4.

Fr. Griffins were now to meet Caltra in the County Final in Tuam Stadium on 14th September 1975. It was Fr. Griffins first appearance in the county final since 1972 when they won. It was Caltra's first ever time to get to a senior final. Fr. Griffins elected to play with the wind advantage in the opening half and despite the best Caltra could do Griffins led at the interval by 0-7 to 0-2. At this stage the game was as good as over for not alone had Griffins a five point lead but Caltra were reduced to fourteen players one of their forwards being sent off by referee P.J. McGrath (Mayo). Griffins always looked the superior side and their experience and strength proved invaluable when the chips were down. Fr. Griffins were on top at midfield where the pairing of 'ageless' D. O'Shea and Hubert Deane deprived Caltra forwards of a regular supply of ball. The defence for Fr. Griffins was a solid unit ably led by Pat Sands who snuffed out Caltra danger-man Tom Divilly. Liam Sammon, Ray McDonagh, Jim Noone and accurate free-taker Gerry Mahony were dominant in all Griffins attacks. Although Fr. Griffins scored only two points in the second half it was enough to give them a winning margin of 0-9 to 0-5. After the game Sean Purcell presented the cup to Fr. Griffins Captain Tom Sands.
Team - John McGinley, Jim McMahon, Barney Costello, Tom Sands, Pat McSharry, Pat Sands, Gerry Kelly, Denis O'Shea, Hubert Deane Liam Sammon 0-3, Ray McDonagh 0-1, Colie McDonagh, Jim Noone 0-1 Denis Flynn 0-1, Gerry Mahony 0-3.
Selectors - Gerry Mahony, Tom Sands, Jim Kilroy, Tom Higgins, Henry O'Connor.

This win put Fr. Griffins into the Connacht Club Championship. Here they were drawn to play Mayo champions Garrymore in Pearse Stadium on 2nd November 1975. This game turned out to be a cliffhanger throughout and despite the heavy rain which never let up for the full sixty minutes, both teams put on a fine display for the small but appreciative gathering of supporters. After a good first half in which the lead changed hands regularly both sides played excellent football, Griffins chief scorers in the first half were Liam Sammon, Jim Noone, Emmett Farrell and Denis Flynn. In the first half Barney Costello at full back had an outstanding game fielding and clearing with great skill. Half time score Fr. Griffins 1-7 Garrymore 1-5. In the first nine minutes of the second half Garrymore got three points and Fr. Griffins got two leaving Griffins leading 1-9 to 1-8. With fifteen minutes left Garrymore were creating more chances but the Griffins defence were always able to clear safely. However one attack did get through and a shot that had goal 'written all over it' was saved by John McGinley and cleared. In another attack Garrymore got the equaliser and with only two minutes left it looked like a drawn game. Hubert Deane fielded a high ball and quickly passed to Denis Flynn who shot the winning point from 30 yards.
Final score Fr. Griffins 1-10 Garrymore 1-9.
Team - J. McGinley, J. McMahon, B. Costello, T. Sands, P. McSharry, P. Sands, G. Kelly, Emmett Farrell 1-0, Hubert Deane, L. Sammon 0-3, R. McDonagh, C. McDonagh, J. Noone 0-1, D. Flynn 0-3, Gerry Mahony 0-3.
This senior game was preceded by Coiste Peil Na nOg Minor football final between City Centre and Fr. Lally's (Shantalla).

The second round of the Club Championship was against Leitrim Champions Ballinamore. This was played in Pearse Stadium on 16 November. After a lack-lustre first half the scores were level at 0-4 each. In the second half Fr. Griffins came more into the game and except for a few lapses in their goal area almost played at will. Forwards were on top throughout and two, Denis Flynn and Gerry Mahony scored 1-10 of the total score. Pat McSharry (right half back) 0-1 and Liam Sammon 0-1. Hubert Deane at midfield and defenders Barney costello, Tom Sands and Jim Mc Mahon played well also.
Team - J. McGinley, J. McMahon, B. Costello, T. Sands, P. McSharry 0-1, P. Sands, G. Kelly, Emmett Farrell, H. Deane, L. Sammon 0-1, R. McDonagh, C. McDonagh, J. Noone, D. Flynn 1-5, G. Mahony 0-5.
Sub. D. O'Shea for Ray McDonagh.

Fr. Griffins opponents in the Connacht Club Final were Roscommon Gaels. The game was fixed for Doctor Hyde Park in Roscommon on 30/11/75. This game turned out to be a dour struggle all through with numerous frees to both teams, in fact fifty-five frees in all. Ros Gaels were always ahead in this game and they had more of the play but squandered many chances. Griffins were also to blame in this regard, in fact all Griffins scores came from Gerry Mahony and they were all from frees. At half time Ros Gaels led by 0-5 to 0-2, in the second half Griffins did create more chances but the Ros Gaels defence tackled hard and upset the forwards somewhat and were just about deserving winners. Griffins players who did well were Barney Costello at full-back, Pat Sands at centre-back, Denis O'Shea, Emmett Farrell at midfield and Liam Sammon was the outstanding player on view, Gerry Mahony and Denis Flynn were also to the fore.
Team - J. McGinley, J. McMahon, B. Costello, T. Sands, P. McSharry, P. Sands, G. Kelly, D. O'Shea, E. Farrell, L. Sammon, R. McDonagh, C. McDonagh, J. Noone, D. Flynn, G. Mahony.
Referee - T. Moran (Leitrim).

On 21st December 1975 a novel game was arranged by the Club when a team representing players over 30 years played a team selected from players who were under 30 years. Some of the players who claimed to be over thirty were Martin Newell, Rae Gilmore, Pat O'Toole, Paddy Higgins, Mick Dolan, Mick O'Sullivan Mick Dowling, Gerry Mahony, D. O'Shea, Seamus Cox. Among the under 30's were young up-and-coming players like Liam Sammon, Colie McDonagh, Pat Sands, Emmett Farrell, Miko Nolan, Ray McDonagh, Barney Costello just to mention a few. The match ended in a draw and everybody who took part received a commemorative plaque sponsored by Henry O'Connor and Tom Sands.

This month also saw club player Liam Sammon selected as Galway Gaelic Footballer of the year. The award was a deserving honour to a footballer who had an outstanding year at club and county level.

CHAPTER 9

Ambitions Unfulfilled

1976

Having won the Senior club championship in 1975 the outlook for 1976 looked promising. The Club's aims were three-fold; to retain the Senior county championship, win the Connacht Senior Club Championship, and do well in the All-Ireland club series. The club had available to it the same panel of players as for 1975 and even though some had now reached the veteran stage the balance of youth and experience seemed to be right which gave reason to believe the aims set for the year were not over optimistic. Indeed quoting from the findings of the subcommittee set up to report on team performances in 1976 "our 1976 Senior A panel was as talented a panel as was ever available to the club". However a combination of some poor performances and being short of key players through injuries the aims set were not achieved and the club was eliminated in the second round of the county senior championship by a less talented but more eager Ballinasloe side.

In the first round of the Senior Championship Griffins had a comfortable win over Cortoon with the score of 0-14 to 0-2. Quoting from the Tuam Herald Fr. Griffins performance was highly satisfactory although they were without injured county stars Liam Sammon and Pat Sands. On the other hand Cortoon also lacked the services of county man Tommy Joe Gilmore who was nursing a hand injury. In the second half Gilmore did take the field but his injury and the fact that he had only returned from the U.S.A. hampered his performance. According to reporter John Cunningham in the Connacht Tribune -

> "Hubert Deane and Rae Gilmore were on top in the centre of the field. Gerry Mahony, long the scorer-in-chief of the attack, turned on the style sending over point after point from all angles. Colie McDonagh with his unique side step was the mainstay of the defence ably assisted by Tom Sands, Jim McMahon and goalie John Mc Ginley. In attack Emmett Farrell and Miko Nolan gave good assistance to Gerry Mahony."

Scorers - G. Mahony 0-5, M. Nolan and D. O'Shea 0-2 each, D. Flynn, H.Deane, R. Gilmore, E. Farrell and J. Noone 0-1 each.

Fr. Griffins - John McGinley, Kevin McDonagh, Brendan O'Shea, Tom Sands, Colie McDonagh, Jim McMahon, Gerry Kelly, Hubert Deane,

This photograph of the young Fr. Griffin, (he was only 28 years old when murdered) is cherished to this day in many parts of the world.

Rae Gilmore, Emmett Farrell, Miko Nolan, Jim Noone, Denis Flynn, Denis O'Shea, Gerry Mahony."

The biggest shock of the 1976 County Championship was the defeat of Griffins by Ballinasloe in the quarter final on the score 2–10 to 2–7. According to the Connacht Tribune report –

> "This was a tame exit by the champions who were again without the services of Liam Sammon. They never looked like champions defending their title and apart from missing Sammons leadership they also felt the absence of Pat McSharry and Jim McMahon in defence, where Tom Sands was the only one to impress. He did get sporadic assistance from Brendan O'Shea and the two McDonaghs. In the centre Hubert Deane and veteran Denis O'Shea put in some good efforts. Denis Flynn and non-stop Emmett Farrell were best of an attack that seldom hit the high spots."

Scorers – E. Farrell 1–1, D. Flynn 1–0, R. McDonagh and C. McDonagh 0–2 each, G. Mahony 0–2.
Fr. Griffins – John McGinley, Kevin McDonagh, Brendan O'Shea, Tom Sands, Colie McDonagh, Barney Costello, Gerry Kelly, Denis O'Shea, Hubert Deane, Jim Noone, Miko Nolan, Emmett Farrell, Rae McDonagh, Denis Flynn, Gerry Mahony.
Sub. Ciaran Smith (for Noone)."

COUNTY SENIOR LEAGUE

In the opening game of the County League played at Corofin Fr. Griffins had a narrow but well deserved win over Caltra. They looked set for an easy victory after leading 1–4 to 0–2 at the interval though their opponents had been playing with a strong wind. Griffins opened with points by Gerry Mahony, Liam Sammon, Denis Flynn and a goal by Denis O'Shea playing in the unusual role of full-forward. In the first half Caltra had many chances but kicked some incredible wides. However in the second half they fought back with grim determination and had points by Divilly and Davis who also notched a goal to put them on level terms. Griffins were not to be ruffled and finished with points by Liam Sammon and Gerry Mahony (free). The winners had also good triers in Gerry Kelly, Colie McDonagh and Emmett Farrell. Final score – Fr. Griffins 1–6, Caltra 1–4.

In the next round of the league played in Mountbellew the home-side and Fr. Griffins finished on level terms 1–7 each after a very mediocre

game. Although the standard served up was never very high the closeness of the scoring and the intensity of the exchanges provided entertainment for a very small attendance. In his summary of the game in the Tuam Herald Martin Brehony feels –

> "A draw was probably a fair result as both sides missed numerous chances when playing with the wind. Had Mountbellew maintained the momentum of their opening burst they might have pulled off a surprise victory but full marks to Fr. Griffins for staging a spirited recovery. The switching of Emmett Farrell to centrefield was undoubtedly the turning point of the game as the supply to the Mountbellew forwards dramatically decreased hereafter. Both attacks were well held by the respective defences and this surely was the prime reason for the failure of either side to produce any exciting moves on the day. Tom Sands, Liam Sammon, Emmett Farrell, Pat Sands and Gerry Mahony were Fr. Griffins most impressive performers."

Scorers Fr. Griffins – E. Farrell 1–0, G. Mahony 0–3, L. Sammon 0–2, D. Flynn, M. Nolan 0–1 each.

U.C.G. 0–11 Fr. Griffins 1–5

> "Fr. Griffins never hit the form which won them the Co. Championship last year and judging by this performance will need to tighten their game if they hope to retain their title during the coming months."

So writes Camillus Dunne in the Connacht Sentinel of 18/5/76 when describing Fr. Griffins failure to U.C.G. in the County League. College attacked from the throw-in and their tireless efforts were not wasted when they led by five points at the interval. Despite a spirited comeback in the second period by Fr. Griffins, College who were then playing against the strong wind managed to hold out and finished deserving winners. They also made great use of the hand pass, which they had perfected to a fine art.
Scorers for Griffins – L. Sammon 1–3, C. McDonagh 0–1, D. Flynn 0–1.

Fr. Griffins – J. McGinley, K. McDonagh, B. O'Shea, T. Sands, P. McSharry, P. Sands, G. Kelly, H. Deane, L. Sammon. J. Noone, M. Nolan, C. McDonagh, D. Flynn, E. Farrell, C. Smith.

In round four of the league played in Corofin, Fr. Griffins again bit the dust when going under to Milltown on the score 1-6 to 0-4. Although they tried hard the city side could never quite get the measure of their opponents in this Division 1A match. Griffins looked promising at times but with Liam Sammon missing from the forwards they lacked inspiration and although they enjoyed a fair share of possession they never clicked into action and were completely out of it in the opening half in which they could manage only one point. Milltown made far more use of their chances and led by 1-2 to 0-1 at the interval.

On the restart Griffins made a determined effort to reduce arrears but although they opened with two good points from Colie McDonagh and Denis Flynn the Milltown backs kept them at bay. Scorers for Griffins - M. Nolan 0-1, C. McDonagh 0-1, D. Flynn 0-2. Other good performances came from Brendan O'Shea and Pat Sands in defence, Denis O'Shea at midfield and Jim Noone in attack.

Fr. Griffins - J. McGinley, K. McDonagh, B. O'Shea, T. Sands, P. McSharry, P. Sands, G. Kelly, E. Farrell, D. O'Shea, J. Noone, M. Nolan, C. McDonagh, K. Smith, D. Flynn, R. McDonagh.

TUAM STARS 1-13 FR. GRIFFINS 1-4

Fr. Griffins' run of bad luck still continued in their next round of the league played against Tuam Stars in Tuam Stadium. According to Larry Long's report in the Connacht Tribune -

> "Exchanges during the opening half were very keen and everything pointed to a close finish but on the change of ends Tuam took complete control and Fr. Griffins had no answer to the superior teamwork and stamina of the home-side".

It was at centrefield that the bubble burst as far as Fr. Griffins were concerned. The partnership of Michael Mannion and Declan Smith was far too strong for Griffins Hubert Deane and Jim Noone. The winners defence also tightened up considerably in the second half and indeed were so successful that Griffins had only one point to their credit in that period, while Tuam added eight points to their half-time tally. Fr. Griffins most outstanding performer was undoubtedly Liam Sammon who was flying in the first hálf but he lacked the all important support necessary to turn his efforts into scores. Best in defence were goalkeeper John Mc Ginley, fullback Brendan O'Shea, Jim Noone at times in the centre and in attack Ray McDonagh was Sammon's best helper.

Scorers for Griffins - R. McDonagh 1-0, H. Deane, L. Sammon, J. Noone, B. Costelloe 0-1 each.
Fr. Griffins - J. McGinley, P. Kelly, B. O'Shea, M. Carolan, P. McSharry, R. McDonagh, C. McDonagh, H. Deane, J. Noone, P. Fallon, L. Sammon, D. Flynn, R. McDonagh, B. Costello, D. Sands.

In the final league game against Dunmore McHales a victory was essential for Griffins to avoid relegation. When the chips were down our lads came up trumps with one of their best performances of the year and so avoided the drop to the second division.

Carrolls 13-a-side Connacht Championship.
FR. GRIFFINS(GALWAY) 2-11 GARRYMORE(MAYO) 1-14

"A draw was a fair result for the delightful skills exhibited by the champions of Galway and Mayo" - so states the Connacht Tribune's opening paragraph describing this game played with full championship fervour at Castlerea.

Garrymore had the advantage of a strong wind in the first half but their half time lead of 0-9 to 0-3 looked rather insecure. Fr. Griffins took over on the resumption and point by point they began to reduce the deficit. Midway through the half they took the lead when Emmet Farrell rounded Joe Mellett to crash the ball to the net. Five minutes later the Mayo champs seemed to have shot their bolt when substitute Paul Fallon scored Griffins second goal. But that score inspired Garrymore and following a square infringement Pat Dixon goaled from the penalty spot. In the dying seconds Matt Walsh equalised from an acute angle to tie the scores. Pat Sands and Pat McSharry defended stoutly for Griffins. Ciaran Smith in the first half and Colie McDonagh at midfield played well while Liam Sammon, Emmett Farrell and Miko Nolan were brilliant in attack.
Fr. Griffins - D. Sands, K. McDonagh 0-1, B. O'Shea, P. McSharry P. Sands 0-1, G. Kelly, C. McDonagh, C. Smith, E. Farrell 1-0, M. Nolan 0-2, L. Sammon 0-2, R. McDonagh 0-1, P. Elwood 0-3, Sub. P. Fallon 1-1.

GARRYMORE 0-10 FR. GRIFFINS 1-6

This replay again in Castlerea lacked the lustre of the drawn match mainly because both sides were without their best players. Griffins sorely missed the services of Pat Sands, Ciaran Smith, Emmett Farrell, Liam Sammon and Pat Elwood. However for most of the hour it seemed as if the Galway title holders would pull through on the strength of their first half performance when they had the advantage of the biting wind. A well taken goal by Gerry Merrigan in the early stages

put them into a deserved lead and by half time they were four points ahead. Garrymore cut that lead to two points shortly after the resumption and some great place kicking by Pat Dixon clinched the issue for the Mayo standard bearers by the narrowest of margins.
Fr. Griffins - D. Sands, K. McDonagh, B. O'Shea, P. McSharry, D. O'Shea, G. Kelly, Colie McDonagh 0-2, J. Noone, R. McDonagh 0-2, M. Nolan, D. Flynn, P. Fallon 0-1, G. Merrigan 1-1.

Castlerea 7-a-side competition

Fr. Griffins won this competition in 1974, were runners up in 1975 but in the semi-final this year were eliminated by Roscommon Gaels.

AIB - UCD All-Ireland 7-A-Side Championship

In this annual championship for sevens Griffins beat Athlone in the first round and Longford Slashers in round two. However they fell once again to their old bogey side Roscommon Gaels in the semi-final by the narrowest of margins.
Score - Roscommon Gaels 1-8 Fr. Griffins 0-10.
The following players participated - Denis O'Shea, Liam Sammon, Colie McDonagh, Pat Sands, Tom Sands, Donal Sands, Pat McSharry, Gerry Kelly, Emmett Farrell, Ciaran Smith, Gerry Mahony, Miko Nolan, Jim Noone.

Fr. Griffins also fielded a B team in the Co. Championship but the concentration on the A side meant that very little time was given to this grade. Consequently the performances were less than satisfactory.

Minor Team

The minors had a good run in the championship reaching the quarter final. They beat Renmore in the first round, accounted for Cleggan in the next game before eventually losing to Inverin.

Under-16 Team

In this grade Fr. Griffins were eliminated by Renmore in the first round who later became the eventual winners.

Under-14 Team

This panel was not up to the standard of previous years and despite giving of their best had very little success.

Social Activities

On the social front the outstanding event of the year was the presentation of the 1975 Senior County Football Championship medals

Fr. Michael Griffin, a staunch nationalist, was proud to wear, and be photographed in the uniform of an officer of the Irish Volunteers.

which was held in the Banba Hotel, Salthill on Saturday 28th February 1976. Guest of honour was Jim Carney of R.T.E. who made the presentation.
Recipients of county medals - Donal Sands, Colie McDonagh, Gerry Kelly, Gerry Mahony, Tom Sands, Brendan O'Shea, Leo McCaffrey, Liam Sammon, Denis O'Shea, Denis Flynn, Hubert Deane, Pat McSharry, Pat Sands, Barney Costello, Pat Elwood, Ciaran Smith, Pat Kelly, John McGinley, Ray McDonagh, Jim McMahon, Jim Noone.

The biggest cheer of the night was reserved for the "lads of the old brigade" the over thirty players who were presented with special plaques won in an inter-club match before Christmas. It was good to see some of the stalwarts of the early Griffins victories, men like Mick Dowling, Paddy Higgins, Jimmy Ward and Mick O'Sullivan appear so fit and athletic as they stepped up to receive their awards. Prior to the presentations club Chairman Henry O'Connor welcomed all present and paid special tribute to the players and all connected with the team for bringing the club its seventh county championship victory. He also thanked Jim Carney for coming to Galway to make the presentations. In reply Jim Carney praised Fr. Griffins for their contribution to Galway football down through the years.

Other activities during 1976

A sub-committee was formed to investigate the performances of club teams during the year, the report they produced was an excellent one but alas like so many other good resolutions people make the findings fell on deaf ears.

A club calendar was also produced which included a photograph of the Co. Championship team and some very interesting data on the club.
Club officers for 1976 -

President	Sean Turke
Chairman	Henry O'Connor
Secretary	John McGinley
Ass. Secretary/Registrar.	Tom O'Neill
Treasurer	Paddy Higgins
Social Activities	Mick O'Sullivan
Del. to Football Boards .	Seamus Cox
Club Development Officer.	Liam Sammon
Senior Team Manager . . .	Gerry Mahony
Senior Captain	Liam Sammon
Vice Captain	Hubert Deane
Committee	Brendan O'Shea, Tom Higgins,

Paddy Flaherty, Brendan O'Brien, Finbar Staunton.

1977

1977 was not a very successful year for Fr. Griffins on the playing fields. The senior team started well winning their first league outing against Milltown and finished on level terms with Dunmore McHales in round two of the same competition. Then came the first round of the championship but a poorly prepared team were no match for an eager and determined Corofin side. Being knocked out so early on in the championship and the postponement of some remaining league games had a detrimental effect on the morale of players. Successive league defeats by Annaghdown, Mountbellew, Monivea and Killererin resulted in the team being relegated to Division 1B of the senior league.

The senior side reached the final of the Castlerea Sevens but an understrength side were well beaten by a very strong Roscommon Gaels in that game.

The performances of the underage teams were much up on previous years. This was in the main due to the time and effort of Pat Sands who trained and prepared the various teams. The most successful of these was the under-17 team which reached the semi-final of the County Championship before being beaten in that decider by Renmore.

UNDER-17 COUNTY FOOTBALL SEMI-FINAL 9/1/1977
RENMORE 1-8 FR. GRIFFINS 0-3

Renmore had the advantage of wind and sun in the opening half and led 1-5 to nil at the interval. However the second half honours were more evenly distributed - 3 points a piece - this deficit was too great for Griffins to erase and Renmore cantered home easy winners. Although Griffins tried hard they failed overall to produce that spark to match the sparkle of the winners dedicated approach.

Fr. Griffins had a top class goalkeeper in Tony Walsh who was well fronted by backs Andrew Heffernan and Eddie Ward. Frank Brady and Pat O'Connor played in spasms at midfield while in attack John Shaughnessy, Paul 'Mono' Fallon and Eugene Dowling tried hardest.

Fr. Griffins - T. Walsh, T. Connolly, A. Heffernan, N. McGreevy, M. Connolly, E. Ward, J. O'Sullivan, F.Brady, P. O'Connor, M. Heaney, P. Fallon, E. Dowling, G. Hanly J. Shaughnessy, A. Ryan.

Connacht Seven-A-Side Senior Football Championship

In the semi-final of this annual competition Fr. Griffins had a convincing win over St. Faithneach's (Roscommon) on the score 2-12 to 1-6. However, they were no match for Roscommon Gaels in the final who romped to an easy victory on the score 6-14 to 0-6. After a hesitant first half Griffins showed some signs of recovery in the second moiety with Liam Sammon, Tom and Pat Sands and Gerry Mahony

performing well but the Roscommon sides huge half-time lead proved to be an insurmountable barrier.

Senior County League Division A
Fr. Griffins 2-8 Milltown 1-6

"Sammon on tune as Griffins win", so reads the heading of the Connacht Sentinel of April 19th as Tom Rooney gives us a run down on the opening game of this Div. A match played at sunny Athenry.

> "Griffins got a tonic start after only four minutes. Midfielder Jim Noone combined with Denis Flynn to score a great goal. The city side edged further in front with points from Sammon (0-2) and Johnny Flaherty (0-1). It took Milltown ten minutes to register their first score when Robert Bermingham raced through the Griffins defence to crash the ball to the net. This score was negated minutes later when Sammon placed Donie O'Sullivan for another Griffins goal. In the third quarter Griffins really hit a purple patch with a vintage Sammon now operating from midfield, literally taking the game by the 'scruff of the neck' and he had a hand in all of his sides remaining scores. Fr. Griffins were best served by Pat McSharry, Tom Sands and Tom Prendergast in defence while apart from Sammon Vincent Gilmore and Denis Flynn also played well in attack.
>
> Fr. Griffins - J. McGinley, K. McDonagh, T. Sands, M. Carolan, P. McSharry, P. Kelly, G. Kelly, J. Noone 1-0, H. Deane 0-1, V. Gilmore 0-1, L. Sammon 0-3, D. O'Sullivan 1-0, J. Flaherty 0-1, D. Flynn 0-1, R. Mc Donagh.
>
> Subs. T. Prendergast for P. Kelly, D. Sands for R. McDonagh."

Annaghdown 3-6 Fr. Griffins 0-8

Fr. Griffins next outing in the league against Annaghdown was a disappointing one. Short a number of regulars they never got off the ground and were always labouring against a gritty North Galway combination.

Annaghdown got away to an ideal start when Jimmy Newell netted and although Griffins came back for points by Gerry Mahony, Liam Sammon, Hubert Deane and Gerry Kelly they were always struggling and trailed by 2-2 to 0-5 at the break. Annaghdown continued to

pressurise the city side in the second half and a further spate of scores from Tom Walsh, Tom Naughton and Willie Kavanagh made it easy for Annaghdown in the end. The Griffins defence could never get to grips with the winners attack and only Colie McDonagh and Gerry Kelly played up to form. The attack was equally unreliable and although Jim Noone, Pat Elwood, Vinny Gilmore and Gerry Mahony were good in patches the forward line lacked drive. Liam Sammon was the only one to make an impression but he had to retire early with a leg injury.

Fr. Griffins 1–5 Dunmore McHales 0–8

In the third round of the league Div 1A a last minute point by Fr. Griffins enabled them to share the points with Dunmore at the latter's home venue. According to the Connacht Sentinel report "This was an entertaining contest and a draw was a fair result". Both sets of forwards were well held by their respective defences and scores were hard to come by. The Griffins full-back line was particularly effective with Pat Mc Sharry in brilliant form. Hubert Deane impressed at midfield and Jim Noone, Dinny O'Shea and Jim McMahon were best of the forwards.

County Championship

In their first game of the County Senior Championship played at Tuam Stadium Fr. Griffins really hit rock bottom when going under to Corofin on the score Corofin 2–15 Fr. Griffins 0–6. The Connacht Sentinel of the 25/6/77 describes the game "as a one horse race" and the writer was amazed that the city team should make such an ignominious exit from the championship. Truth to tell they simply could not match the scorching pace set by the eager Corofin men who notched up a 2–7 to 0–3 lead when playing against the breeze. Continuing, the report mentions –

> "the big difference between the sides was that while Corofin had some bad wides to their discredit they were keeping up the firepower while Fr. Griffins failed utterly to make any impression in attack as much through over-carrying the ball as lacking the thrust and finish that might have made it a bit closer".

Pat Sands and Hubert Deane had some great duels with Corofin's Padraic Glynn and Joe Leonard at centrefield. Liam Sammon employed all his talents in an effort to keep Griffins in the race and got good support from Jim Noone and occasionally Gerry Mahony, but only Colie McDonagh, Jim McMahon and the evergreen Tom Sands could claim much credit in a hard pressed defence.

Fr. Griffins - M. Carolan, P. McSharry, B. O'Shea, T. Sands, C. McDonagh, J. McMahon, G. Kelly, H. Deane 0-1, P. Sands, J. Noone 0-1, P. Elwood, L. Sammon, D. O'Sullivan, D. O'Shea, G. Mahony 0-4, Sub. C. Smith (for O'Sullivan).

County League Division 2A

Fr. Griffins second string caught a tartan in a well drilled Renmore side in division 2A of the County League played at Pearse Stadium. The final score was Renmore 3-7 Fr. Griffins 1-10.

Some former Griffins players notably Martin Newell of county fame, Billy Quinn, Ray Beatty and Colm McGowan formed the nucleus of this Renmore team that had three points to spare over their old alma mater. A hat-trick of goals by ace poacher Brendan Hutchinson ably marshalled by another Galway star of the sixties Christy Tyrell set the winners on the high road to victory. Main credit for Renmore's victory certainly went to the mastermind Tyrell for marshalling his forward line. Though facing most competent defenders in Paddy Madden, John Flynn, Mike Small and Pat Kelly, the Renmore supremo used all his vast experience in many match-winning moves.

Fr. Griffins - T. Walsh, D. Geraghty, J. Connolly, P. Kelly, M. Small 0-1, P. Madden, J. Flynn, T. Richardson, P. O'Connor, E. Ward 0-1, V. Gilmore 1-3, T. Prendergast, P. Fallon 0-5, P. Byrne, G. Reilly, Subs. O. Walsh, T. Reidy.

Division 1A League
Mountbellew 0-7 Fr. Griffins 0-5

Following their early elimination from the championship Fr. Griffins looked short of pace when going under by two points to Mountbellew in this division 1A league game at Pearse Stadium. In wet and windy conditions played in late October on a slippery pitch players had to rely on catch and kick football to which Mountbellew adapted themselves better than their city rivals.

The Mountbellew defence was sound all through with Colleran, King, Reilly and Browne covering well. Conway and Fallon ruled the roost at midfield despite the efforts of Deane and Smith. Johnny Hughes, Donal Daly and Tom Cunningham were most impressive in attack. For Fr. Griffins John McGinley in goal excelled while Brendan O'Shea, Barney Costello and Tom Sands were sound defenders. In a weak attack only Donal Sands, Pat Elwood and Pat Madden provided any real thrust.

Fr. Griffins - J. McGinley, K. McDonagh, B. O'Shea, T. Sands, J. O'Flynn, B. Costello, P. McSharry, H. Deane, C. Smith, J. Noone, P.

Pat Niland, the outstanding Clubman of 1984, pictured here with his Clubman of the Year Award. From left: Seamus Cox, Mick Sullivan, Paddy Higgins, Pat Niland, Brendan O'Shea and Mick Dowling.

Madden, D. Sands 0–2, D. O'Sullivan 0–1, P. Elwood 0–2, G. Corbett, Subs. P. Kelly, J. Flaherty, R. McDonagh.

Monivea 2–5 Fr. Griffins 0–1

In their worst display of the season Fr. Griffins went under to Monivea in this end of season league game played at St. Brendan's Park, Loughrea. For the former county champions this was a shattering defeat whose only point come off a free in the 45th minute. Although short many of their regulars this in no way is an excuse for the lack lustre display of the city side. Neither does it detract from the merit of Monivea's win for they were in control all through and might have had a bigger tally but for poor finishing. For Fr. Griffins only Tom and Pat Sands, Pat Elwood and Gerry Mahony tried hardest.
Fr. Griffins – M. Carolan, J. McMahon, D. O'Shea, T. Sands, P. Kelly, P. Sands, D. O'Sullivan, C. Smith, P. Elwood, D. Sands, G. Corbett, V. Gilmore, P. McSharry, J. Noone and G. Mahony 0–1.

In their final game of the 1977 League Div 1A played at Pearse Stadium on Sunday Feb. 5th 1978 Fr. Griffins hit the relegation zone when going under by 2–8 to 1–4 to Killererin. It did mark the return of Liam Sammon after a six month absence to the football scene but the former champions Killererin were far too crafty for the city team. Sammon last played football on July 10th 1977, Connacht Final day, where he was at the receiving end of a hard challenge. Without him Fr. Griffins would have suffered a much bigger defeat. In fact Sammon's tally of one goal and three points gives an indication of the weakness of the Griffins attack. On the day the city side were very depleted and some of the club's younger players took the places of such reliables as Dinny O'Shea, Denis Flynn, Gerry Mahony, Hubert Deane and Barney Costello.

Conditions were good for football at Pearse Stadium but the newcomers on the Fr. Griffin side were desperately in need of coaching and match practice. Although scores were level at 0–4 each at the interval Killererin edged their side three points clear. Another county player Johnny Hughes added another goal for the winners to complicate matters more for Griffins. In the final minutes Sammon notched a goal from a penalty to leave Killererin in front by double scores.
Fr. Griffins – J. McGinley, K. McDonagh, B. O'Shea, P. Kelly, P. McSharry, P. Sands, C. McDonagh, L. Sammon 1–3, C. Smith, V. Gilmore, J. Noone, G. Corbett, D. O'Sullivan, P. Madden, D. Sands 0–1.

Under-17 football league
Fr. Griffins 0-7 Salthill 0-5

Fr. Griffins created quite a surprise when they overcame a more fancied Salthill outfit in the county under-17 football league at Pearse Stadium. Salthill set the pace in the first quarter but except for points by John Armstrong and Hugh Heskin they could not translate this advantage into scores. Then Frank Brady took control at midfield for Griffins and points by Michael Heaney (free) and Anthony Ryan (0-2) put them into the lead. Play then moved freely and after Val Murray put his side level with a free Anthony Ryan notched a point in the 30th minute to leave the interval Fr. Griffins 0-4 Salthill 0-3.

On the resumption Griffins put on tremendous pressure but great saves by Brendan Hanniffy in goal made scoring impossible for Fr. Griffins. Salthill broke away and John Keogh had two quick points. Griffins recovered and points by Michael Heaney and Frank Brady (0-2) left them deserving winners.

Fr. Griffins - Michael Heffernan, Jimmy Elwood, Henry O'Connell, Tony O'Connor, Martin Connolly, John O'Sullivan, Joe Thornton, Frank Brady 0-2, Michael McCarthy, Michael Heaney 0-2, Anthony Ryan 0-3, George Hanley, Murt Fahy, Eamon Hennigan, Niall McGreevy, Sub. Eddy Coughlan.

Fr. Griffins 1-10 Claregalway 0-2

In round two of the under-17 league Fr. Griffins continued their winning run when defeating Claregalway on the above score. Despite incessant rain and having ninety percent of the play the winners led by only 0-6 to nil at the short whistle. Their scores in this half came from Murt Fahy 0-3, Martin Connolly 0-2 and Mike Heaney 0-1. They improved slightly against the breeze and a Fahy goal put them on the road to victory. Fahy, Brady, Ryan and Hanly added further points to clinch the issue. For Griffins Heffernan, Thornton and Connolly played well in defence. Brady and McCarthy ruled the roost at midfield and in attack only Connolly, Fahy and Ryan hit top form.

Fr. Griffins 3-4 Mervue 1-10

In this very entertaining under-17 league clash Mervue were first to admit that they were very lucky to share the points with Fr. Griffins. Full marks to the latter for their tremendous fight back in the second half as they were led by 1-4 to 1-1 at the interval by a Mervue team that seemed to have the game sewn up. In the second half it was a different Griffins team as they fought for every ball and started to rattle the Mervue team with some very good moves and clean football. They were soon rewarded when they had a good goal to bring the sides

level after only five minutes of the half. They went further ahead a few minutes later when they again shook the Mervue net to put them ahead 3-1 to 1-4. However Mervue kept in touch with some good points and their mentors certainly breathed a sigh of relief as Brian O'Donnell sent a free sailing between the posts for the equaliser. Outstanding for Griffins were John O'Sullivan Frank Brady, Mike Heaney, Anthony Ryan and Murt Fahy.

Tom Sands elected Manager of County team

The other big news of 1977 from a Fr. Griffins point of view was the appointment of Tom Sands as Galway Senior Football Team Manager to replace Enda Colleran. Tom joined Fr. Griffins from Ballygar in 1970 and in the interim he captained the side to two County Championship successes.

Officers of the Club for 1977 -

President ..... Sean Turke
Chairman ..... Seamus Cox
Vice-Chairman.....Mick Dolan
Secretary ..... John McGinley
Assistant Secretary .. Denis Flynn
Treasurer ..... Paddy Higgins
Assistant Treasurer ..Matthew Deane
Club Liaison Officer . Seamus Cox
Social Activities .... Mick O'Sullivan
P.R.O. ..... Jim McMahon
Committee ..... Henry O'Connor, Gerry Mahony, Liam Sammon, Mickey Carolan, Brendan O'Shea, Tom Sands,Paddy Flaherty, Jim Kilroy, Joe Darcy.

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1978

1978 was a reasonably successful year on the playing fields with the Senior Team winning the Division 1B section of the league and as a result won promotion to Division 1A. The under 21 side after many fine performances reached the county final and the under-14 panel made it to the semi-final stages.

County League Division 1B
Fr. Griffins 0-13 Caherlistrane 1-10

In their opening game of Division 1B Fr. Griffins shared the points with Caherlistrane in this close encounter at Caherlistrane. The city side led by Liam Sammon had some newcomers in action including Martin Geraghty and Steve Ruane and both showed well up to expectations. It was a very tight game all through and when Vincent Judge pointed late in the hour it looked like a win for the home side but Fr. Griffins came back for the equaliser almost on the stroke of time.

Fr. Griffins 1-12 Mountbellew 1-5

In their next outing in the league Fr. Griffins had a comfortable seven points to spare over Mountbellew played at the latter's home ground. Griffins dominated most of the way and were it not for some poor shooting and hasty passes their winning margin might have been greater. Mountbellew battled gamely all through but they had no power up front and found scores very difficult to attain. Fr. Griffins led by 0-6 to 0-3 at half-time and further consolidated their position on the turnover before Mountbellew rallied. Best for Griffins were Martin Geraghty, Liam Sammon, Hubert Deane, Jim Noone, Pat Sands and Tony Regan.

Fr. Griffins 2-10 Moycullen 1-0

By virtue of this comprehensive win over old rivals Moycullen Fr. Griffins qualified for the final of division 1B of the county league. Played in poor conditions at Pearse Stadium Griffins started well with points from Pat Elwood (0-4), Donal O'Sullivan and Matt Ruane (0-1) each before Moycullen launched a few fruitless attacks. The city lads added to their tally with points from Hubert Deane, Pat Sands and Stephen Ruane (0-2) to lead by 0-10 to nil at the interval. On the resumption the lead was further stretched with points from Steve Ruane (0-2) and Pat McSharry before Jim Noone soloed through for a good goal. Moycullen launched a few good attacks and Regan goaled. However Griffins finished stronger with points from Elwood (0-4), Noone and Deane before Ruane closed the scoring with a goal. For

Griffins Tony Walsh kept a safe goal, Brendan O'Shea, Barney Costello, Tony Regan and Brendan Colleran played well in defence Deane and Noone ruled midfield while Stephen and Matt Ruane, Pat Elwood and Vinny Gilmore were sharp in attack.
Fr. Griffins - Tony Walsh, Colie McDonagh, Brendan O'Shea, Barney Costello, Tony Regan, Brendan Colleran, Mike Ryan, Hubert Deane 0-3, Jim Noone 1-1, Vincent Gilmore, Pat Sands 0-1, Stephen Ruane 1-4, Donal O'Sullivan 0-1, Pat Elwood 0-8, Matt Ruane 0-1.
Subs. - Pat McSharry 0-1 for P. Sands, D. Sands for O'Sullivan, T. Sands for McDonagh.

County League Division 1B Final
Fr. Griffins 1-6 Ballinasloe 1-2

The final of the 1978 Div 1B was not played until March 8th 1979 at Kilimor. The long delay, however, did not deter Fr. Griffins from recording their first league success in over twenty years and in the process compensated in a small way for their defeat by the same opposition in the championship. Both sides played with great spirit and though the strong wind resulted in many wides the issue was in doubt up to the final whistle. Defences on both sides excelled and the city back trio of Tony Regan, Brendan Colleran and Colie McDonagh laid the foundations for victory.

Steve Ruane and Johnny Whelan exchanged points before Griffins had a goal by Donal Sands disallowed but Pat Elwood edged them a point ahead. Barry Brennan replied off a free to leave it level 0-2 a piece at half time. Ballinasloe backed by the breeze pressed hard but could not break down a solid Griffins defence. Elwood, Sands and Ruane added points for Griffins to put them well clear but a goal by Johnny Whelan gave Ballinasloe a sporting chance. They failed to equalise and in a quick break Pat Elwood netted from a melee to ensure a city victory. For the winners Tony Walsh (in goal), Tom Sands, Brendan Colleran, Colie McDonagh and Tony Regan in defence, Liam Sammon and Hubert Deane at midfield and the Sands, Elwood and Stephen Ruane in attack were best.
Fr. Griffins - Tony Walsh, Colie McDonagh, Barney Costello, Martin Geraghty, Tony Regan, Brendan Colleran, Gerry Kelly, Liam Sammon 0-2, Hubert Deane, Matthew Ruane, Steve Ruane 0-2, Pat Elwood 1-2, Donal Sands, Pat Sands, Pat McSharry.
Subs. Tom Sands (for Geraghty), Denis O'Shea (for McSharry).

Fr. Griffins Under-14 Football Team, winners of the 1984 County League. Back row: Sean Flaherty, Sean Buckley, Sean Cloonan, Nigel Casey, Kieran Conneely, Timmy O'Sullivan, Francis Sweeney, John Kelly, Pat Egan, Kevin McDonnell, Michael Kelly, David Nikolakos. Centre row: John Bermingham, Brendan Harris, John O'Brien, Andrew Tobin, Liam Grealish, Michael Crowe, Liam Glynn, Martin McDonagh. Front row: Nial Heskin, Fintan Lalor, Alastir Conway, Mark Charles. The other team members were Jimmy Tonery, Captain, Joe Roche and Wayne King.

Peter Duggan, Dermot Collins 0–1, Matt Ruane 1–2, Sub. Eddie Ward (for Duggan).

Corofin 2–5 Fr. Griffins 0–4

The county final against Corofin was fixed for the following Sunday. Since the semi-final and replay took place on the two previous Sundays it meant that the players had to try and cope with the strain of three tough games on successive Sundays. An injury to fullback Tom Aherne and the early departure of centre halfback Ray Hughes with a shoulder injury did not help the chances of success.

Griffins started with two wides and had only two points on the scoreboard at the break when Corofin lead 1–3 to 0–2 but worse luck was to follow early in the second half when they fumbled a great goal chance that would have brought them back into the game. From there on Corofin took a firm grip on exchanges but they made hard labour of scoring and as in the first half had only two points to their credit after twenty minutes. However a goal from a penalty by Leo Higgins wrapped it up for the North Galway side. Jarlath Burke of the Tuam Herald takes up the story from here –

> "We had expected better football from two underage teams but apart from a few individual displays this was disappointing fare, particularly in the scoring department. This defeat was a big disappointment for Fr. Griffins who deserved more reward for their efforts but paid the penalty for holding on too long".

Tom Aherne and Ray Hughes were sorely missed in defence where Paddy Keogh and Andrew Heffernan worked hardest. Frank Brady and Ciaran Smith could not be faulted in the centre while in attack Steve Ruane was the hardest trier getting good support from Dermot Collins and Pat McCormack.

Fr. Griffins – Tony Walsh, Andrew Heffernan, Tom Aherne, Pat O'Connor, Paddy Keogh, Ray Hughes, Mike Ryan, Frank Brady, Ciaran Smith, Steve Ruane, Dermot Collins, Peter McCormack, Eddie Ward, Pat Elwood, Matt Ruane, Sub. P. Walsh.

Minor Activities

There was also a great commitment by the minor panel of players. They gave a good account of themselves in the winter league but were eliminated by Salthill in the championship.

Salthill 3–13 Fr. Griffins 2–5

Fr Griffins made their exit from the Minor County Championship when going under to a strong and lively Salthill fifteen. Through the centre of the field Griffins looked the stronger side physically but once they were forced to work at top speed their shortcomings were drastically revealed. The first half was evenly contested with Matt Ruane, Pat McCormack and Georgie Hanley very much to the fore for Griffins. At the short whistle the losers were slightly in front on the score 1–4 to 1–3. There were great expectations all round of a stirring struggle in the second half but these were short–lived as Salthill really came to life. Such was the pressure on Fr. Griffins that they were unable to get many worthwhile movements underway and even then it was always difficult to get past the winners half back line. The only scores came from Pat McCormack who had a goal and a point from Oliver Hynes.

Fr. Griffins – E. Hennigan, R. Thornton, M. Greally, M. O'Connell, T. O'Connor, M. McCarthy, A. Ryan, M. Ruane, F. Brady G. Hanley, P. McCormack, T. Connolly, M. Heffernan, A. Heffernan O. Hynes.

Under–14's and Under–16's

The under–14 and under–16 teams were well handled by their manager Mick Dowling. Both teams accounted well for themselves in the winter leagues and the under–14's had a very good run in the championship before being eliminated by Ballinasloe in the semi–final. The following under–14 players gave Griffins good assistance in both league and championship – Gary Elwood, Joe Donnellan, Liam Donnellan, Francis Costello, Sean Naughton, Gay Grealish, Gay Farrell, Paul Burke, Pat Keaney, Michael Burke, Martin Conneely, Peter Laffey, Pat McDonagh, Martin Tierney, Paul Russell.

Deane gets his chance on County Senior side

After four years on the substitutes bench Hubert Deane finally got the recognition he deserved when he was picked at centre half forward on the county senior team. It was fitting also that Stephen Ruane should secure a place at left half forward on the county under–21 side.

County Senior Football Championship
Ballinasloe 1–14 Fr. Griffins 1–11

According to the Tuam Herald of June 3rd 1978 "the biggest shock of the senior football championship was the dismissal of Fr. Griffins by Ballinasloe at Loughrea". From the outset this game was played at a blistering pace in brilliant sunshine. From an early stage it looked odds on that Ballinasloe who had a dozen of last years under–21 side on duty would make it to the next round. They were better balanced all round and the Griffins midfield dominance exerted by Liam Sammon and Hubert Deane was offset by the fine performance of the Ballinasloe half lines.

Fr. Griffins had opening points from Pat Elwood and Gerry Mahony (free) but Johnny Whelan replied for Ballinasloe. After another Elwood point Ballinasloe hit back for four on the trot by Mitchell, Riddell, Whelan and Cunningham. Sammon equalised but again Ballinasloe took over with points by Mitchell, Lally and Egan (0–2) from frees. A point by Jim Noone left Fr. Griffins in arrears 0–10 to 0–5 at the break. Both sides again exchanged points on resuming but the deciding goal came in the 45th minute when Gerry Lally put Ballinasloe into the lead again with Whelan adding two points to make it safe. Griffins had two points by Sammon and Mahony but Ballinasloe refused to be rattled and finished with three points to their spare.

Despite Liam Sammon's ceaseless efforts Fr. Griffins never really rose to the occasion, only Pat Elwood and Gerry Mahony making any impact in the forwards. In defence Tony Regan was completely at sea against Mike Cunningham and only Barney Costello and Colie McDonagh showed up well in this department.

Fr. Griffins – Donal Sands, Pat McSharry, Barney Costello, Martin Geraghty, Colie McDonagh, Tom Aherne, Tony Regan, Hubert Deane, Liam Sammon 0–2, Steve Ruane 0–1, Pat Sands, Jim Noone 0–2, Vinny Gilmore, Pat Elwood 0–3, Gerry Mahony 1–3,
Sub. Colm Smith (for Regan).

Under–21 championship

In the first round of the under–21 championship Fr. Griffins defeated Cleggan and next time out they resisted a strong challenge from Caltra to reach the semi–final against Ballinasloe.

Fr. Griffins 2–7 Ballinasloe 2–7

Quoting from the Connacht Sentinel of October 17th we learn that "a penalty in the dying minutes by Ballinasloe's Barry Brennan deprived Fr. Griffins of a place in the County Under–21 football final in an entertaining game played at Tuam Stadium".

Ballinasloe had wind advantage in the opening moiety and went into a two point lead before Pat Elwood and Stephen Ruane levelled and Ciaran Smith shot a long range goal for Griffins. Ruane and Peter McCormack added further points before Sean Riddell goaled for Ballinasloe from a rebound. Just on halftime McCormack netted following a solo-run to leave the city side ahead by 2-4 to 1-6 at halftime.

On the turn over Ballinasloe levelled with a Barry Brennan point but Griffins took control and had points from Ruane and Brady but missed numerous other chances to put the issue beyond doubt before Brennan's penalty levelled. For the winners Tony Walsh was outstanding in goal, while Pat O'Connor, Ray Hughes and Paddy Keogh excelled in defence. Ciaran Smith and Frank Brady ruled midfield and Peter McCormack, Pat Elwood and Stephen Ruane were best in attack.

Fr. Griffins - Tony Walsh, Andrew Heffernan, Tom Aherne, Pat O'Connor, Paddy Keogh, Ray Hughes, Mike Ryan, Ciaran Smith 1-0, Frank Brady 0-1, Peter McCormack 1-1, Pat Elwood 0-1, Steve Ruane 0-4, Ger Reilly, Tom Richardson, Matt Ruane.

Fr. Griffins 1-10 Ballinasloe 2-5

Like the drawn game of the previous Sunday this under-21 replay again produced a thrilling encounter at Tuam Stadium. The result hung in the balance until the final whistle and the city side just shaded the issue. Ballinasloe dictated the opening half despite an early Matt Ruane point and they had a goal from Riddell and a point from Mike Cunningham before Kiaran Smith and Pat Elwood pointed for Griffins. Brennan and Whelan had points for the losers and Elwood and Ruane had similar scores for Griffins before a great goal from Barry Brennan left Ballinasloe in front by 2-3 to 0-5 at the short whistle.

Kevin Mitchell pointed for Ballinasloe on the resumption before Griffins took control and had points from Stephen Ruane 0-2 and Pat Elwood 0-1 and a goal from Matt Ruane. Despite an equalising point from P. Cunningham Griffins finished stronger with minors from Dermot Collins and Matt Ruane to earn them their ticket to the final against Corofin. Fr. Griffins Tony Walsh again excelled in goal getting great cover from Andrew Heffernan, Tom Aherne, Pat O'Connor and Mike Ryan. Ciaran Smith had a great hour at midfield aided by a tireless Frank Brady while Dermot Collins was outstanding in attack getting good help from the Ruanes and Pat Elwood.

Fr. Griffins - Tony Walsh, Andrew Heffernan, Tom Aherne, Pat O'Connor, Paddy Keogh, Ray Hughes, Mike Ryan, Ciaran Smith 0-1, Frank Brady, Peter McCormack, Pat Elwood 0-3, Stephen Ruane 0-3,

Officers and Committee for 1978 -

President ..... Sean Turke
Vice-Presidents .... Jimmy Ward, Mick Dowling, Mick O'Sullivan, Paddy Higgins
Chairman ..... Seamus Cox
Vice-chairman ..... Mick Dolan
Secretary ..... Jim Noone
Assistant Secretary ..... Michael Monaghan
Treasurer ..... Paddy Higgins
Assistant Treasurer ..... Brendan O'Shea
Registrar ..... Finbar Staunton
Club Liaison Officer ..... Seamus Cox
Social Activities ..... Mick O'Sullivan
P.R.O ..... Michael Monaghan
Committee ..... G. Mahony, P. McSharry, Liam Sammon, C. McDonagh, M. Carolan, H. O'Connor, G. Corbett, P. Flaherty, P. Drummond, T. Sands.

Some Club Officers at the Annual Dinner in December 1985. Back row: Paddy O'Brien, To m Qualter, Paddy Higgins, Mick Sullivan. Front row: Jimmy Ward, Mick Dowling and Pat Niland.

1979

The year 1979 cannot be deemed a very successful one for the club on the playing fields. The senior team had a good start to the season winning the 1978 Division 1B league final (reported elsewhere) which was played in March 1979. They won all their league games in the senior city league before accounting for Barna in the final. Barna surprisingly defeated Salthill in the semi-final of this competition after a very exciting game. Thereafter general apathy seemed to set in with the players and once the team was defeated in the first round of the championship lack of interest resulted in a very poor league campaign.

County Senior Football Championship
Clonbur 2-9 Fr. Griffins 0-12

In the Connacht Sentinel of 15th June Larry Long writes as follows -

> "A blunder between two Fr. Griffins defenders when one tried to ground pass the ball to the other in front of the Fr. Griffins goal allowed a Clonbur forward to race between the two and with the ball at his feet made no mistake in planting it in the net for the winning score in the Galway County Senior football championship game decided at Tuam Stadium".

This was a very hard game of football with both sides very evenly matched and while Griffins had plenty of the ball they lacked the necessary penetration and scoring ability in front of goal. Evidence of the fact was that six of their total tally came from frees and only six from play while Clonbur on the other hand had only four points from frees.

With only two points between the sides at the interval it looked as if Griffins were going to do it when Colie McDonagh pointed from play and Liam Sammon from a free levelled matters immediately on resuming and then in the seventh minute Liam Sammon again from a free shot Griffins into a point lead. However between the eight and fourteen minutes Stephen Joyce had four points all from frees. This gave Clonbur a three points lead but Griffins finishing in very strong style levelled matters again when Sammon pointed two frees and Stephen Ruane had a point from play. With very little time left the blunder between the two Griffins defenders allowed Clonbur's Tommy Halloran to sneak through for the winning goal. It was hard luck on Griffins who on the day might just have deserved a draw. In a rather shaky Griffins defence only Brendan Colleran, Colie McDonagh and

Tom Sands caught the eye. Liam Sammon and Hubert Deane were always effective in the centre while in a lack lustre attack only Stephen Ruane, Donal Sands and Martin Geraghty were to the fore.
Fr. Griffins - Tony Walsh, Donal O'Sullivan, Tom Sands, Barney Costello, Tony Regan, Brendan Colleran, Colie McDonagh, Liam Sammon 0-6, Hubert Deane, Matt Ruane, Martin Geraghty, Gerry Kelly, Donal Sands, Stephen Ruane, Ray Hughes,
Subs. Dermot Collins (for Hughes), Ray Hughes (for Colleran).

Division 1A County League

Fr. Griffins efforts in the County League were anything but convincing and their only outstanding performance was against old rivals Ballinasloe in the first round played at Athenry. Final score was Fr. Griffins 1-10 Ballinasloe 0-7. A goal by substitute Ray Hughes clinched the points for Fr. Griffins in this league tie. The winning margin certainly did not reflect the closeness of the exchanges as the sides were level six times during the hour. Sammon shot Griffins first point in the 5th minute and Hubert Deane added another before Ballinasloe replied with points from M. Cunningham and M. Brennan. Matt Ruane pointed for Griffins but this was negatived by McGettigan before Sammon and McGettigan pointed on the interval to leave the scores level at 0-4 each. Early in the second half Sammon and Denis O'Shea had points to one in reply from Coughlan. McGettigan and Ruane again swapped points before a good movement ended with the Ray Hughes goal which proved decisive. Sammon 0-2 and O'Shea 0-1 added points for Griffins and Cunningham had the last one for the losers.
Fr. Griffins - Tony Walsh, Pat McSharry, Tom Sands, Martin Geraghty, Donal Sands, Brendan Colleran, Gerry Kelly, Hubert Deane 0-1, Liam Sammon 0-5, Pat Elwood, Stephen Ruane, Matt Ruane 0-2, Billy Keane, Denis O'Shea 0-2, Leo McCaffrey.
Subs. Ray Hughes 1-0 (for Keane), Donal O'Sullivan (for McCaffrey).

In their next outing against Milltown a depleted Fr. Griffins side lost to the home team on the score 1-10 to 1-5. From limited possession the winners raced into a 1-3 to nil lead after 10 minutes and although Liam Sammon pointed and Henry O'Connor had a goal the interval score had Milltown in front 1-7 to 1-2.

An injury to Pat Sands prevented his return after the interval and Football Board Vice-Chairman Seamus Cox resumed at full forward for Griffins. They hit back for 3 points from Matt and Stephen Ruane and Liam Sammon to narrow the gap but they failed to gain the vital goal and Gay McManus pointed thrice to ensure a Milltown victory. For a

gallant Griffins side seven of whom had already played junior, Tony Walsh was safe in goal, Donal Sands, Martin Geraghty and Colie McDonagh were solid in defence, Liam Sammon and Hubert Deane played well at midfield, while in a weak attack Pat Elwood and the Ruanes were best.

An under-strength Griffins side short about seven regulars failed to Tuam Stars in their next league outing on the score Tuam 1-14 Fr. Griffins 1-5. Tuam playing with greater cohesion led all the way despite an outstanding display by Liam Sammon at midfield. It was mostly all one way traffic in the first half with Pat O'Neill, Brian Talty and Pete Warren in good scoring fettle for the Stars. On the resumption Griffins made a good recovery and following a Frank Brady point had a goal from Pat Elwood and further points from Hubert Deane 0-2, Willie Morris 0-1 and Liam Sammon 0-1.

Killererin 1-10 Fr. Griffins 1-8

This league game played in Athenry produced great scores and combinations and the football reached a very high standard. Fr. Griffins who made most of the running throughout wasted possession and Killererin on a lesser supply picked off the scores. Fr. Griffins opened the scoring with points from Steve Ruane and Pat Elwood countered by one by Coen before Ruane had a good goal after seven minutes. Burke replied with two points for the winners before Donal Sands, Steve Ruane and Liam Sammon pointed for Griffins to put them ahead. However, in the last few minutes of the half Jarlath Burke narrowed the gap from three pointed frees to leave the city side leading by 1-5 to 0-6 at the short whistle. On resuming Elwood and Sands had points for Griffins to one from Willie Burke before Billy Joyce goaled to put Killererin into the driving seat and a two point winning margin.

In another close league encounter Fr. Griffins were pipped by a stronger finishing Caltra side on the score Caltra 2-9 Fr. Griffins 3-3. Caltra opened the scoring with points from Tully and Healy before the Connollys levelled with two for Fr. Griffins. Fitzgerald had a good goal for the winners and Healy a point before a long lob from Tony Regan ended in the net and revived Griffins hopes. Just on halftime Tom Divilly goaled for Caltra to leave them ahead by 2-4 to 1-2 at the break. On the resumption Caltra had two points from Kitt and Burke before Griffins staged a comeback and Ruane and Sammon goaled to narrow the gap. However Caltra clinched the issue with points from Healy, Kitt and Davis to a point from Sammon.

Fr. Griffins - P. McSharry, G. Kelly, M. Geraghty, D. O'Sullivan T. Regan 1-0, B. Colleran, C. McDonagh, H. Deane, L. Sammon 1-1, W. Morrin, M. Ruane 1-0, D. Sands, J. Healy, T. Connolly 0-1, M. Connolly 0-1.

Division 2 Side

Despite a great effort of team manager Donal O'Sullivan this side made no impression and were out of the running for honours at an early stage.

Under-21 side

This section of the club met with stiff competition at the preliminary stage and failed to qualify for the knockout stages of the competition.

Minor Panel

The minor team were defeated in the second round of the championship.

Under Age Groups

The club had very little success in any of these competitions in 1979.

Social Activities

On the social front Fr. Griffins had a very successful buffet and social evening in the Banba Hotel on Friday October 5th. Medals were presented to the successful Division 1B Senior League panel (1978 champions) and plaques to the city league winners. The latter competition was sponsored by McCairns Motors through their manager Kevin Blayney, himself a former member of the St. Michael's club. The annual dinner was held as always in the Sacre Coeur Hotel, needless to say another very enjoyable occasion.

Other Happenings

During the year the club lost one of its most dedicated workers in the person of its President Sean Turke of College Road. Elsewhere in this publication a more detailed account of Sean's activities can be found. On a more cheerful note the club's Chairman Henry O'Connor was elected a member of Galway Corporation and Stephen Ruane and Michael Higgins were selected on the County Under-21 and Under-16 teams respectively.

Officers and Committee members for 1979 –

President	Sean Turke
Vice-Presidents	Mick Dowling, Paddy Higgins, Mick O'Sullivan, Jimmy Ward
Chairman	Henry O'Connor
Vice-Chairman	Mick Dolan
Secretary	Michael Monaghan
Assistant Secretary	Sean Lawless
Treasurer	Paddy Higgins
Assistant Treasurer	Brendan O'Shea
P.R.O.	Michael Monaghan
Registrar	Finbar Staunton
Social Activities	Mick O'Sullivan
Liaison Officer	Seamus Cox
Committee	Ned Walsh, Tony Regan, Tom Qualter, Paddy Flaherty, John McGinley, Fr. Sean Foy, John Melody
Senior Captain	Hubert Deane
Team Manager	Liam Sammon
Div 2 Manager	Donal O'Sullivan
Senior Selectors	Liam Sammon, Tony Regan, Henry O'Connor, Hubert Deane, Denis O'Shea.

Over 35s v. St. Michaels in South Park 1988. Back row, from left: Pat Sands, Henry O'Connor, John Creaven, Ray McDonagh, Paddy Madden, Nevillie De Lappe, Miko Nolan, Donal Killeen, Mick Dolan, Paddy Higgins. Front row: Tom Qualter, Donal Sands, John Campbell, Denis O'Shea, Brendan O'Brien, John Faherty, Colie McDonagh, Hubert Deane, Dermot Collins.

CHAPTER 10

Relegation

1980

The following were elected to run the affairs of the Club in 1980 –

President ..... Ned Walsh
Vice–Presidents ..... Paddy Higgins, Mick O'Sullivan, Mick Dowling, Jimmy Warde.
Chairman ..... Jim Kilroy.
Vice–Chairmen ..... Mick Dolan, Mick Dowling.
Secretary ..... Tom Sands
Assistant Secretary ..... Donal O'Sullivan
Treasurer ..... Paddy Higgins
P.R.O. ..... Michael Monaghan
Social Activities Officer .... Mick O'Sullivan
Delegate to Co. Football Board Pat Drummond
Senior Team Managers .... Tom Sands and Colie McDonagh
Senior Captain ..... Pat Sands
Vice–Captain ..... Stephen Ruane
Selectors ..... Jim Kilroy, Tom Sands, Pat Sands, Seamus Cox, Jimmy Ward.
Committee ..... Liam Sammon, Paddy Faherty, Tom Qualter, Martin Geraghty, Oliver O'Rourke, Con Crowley, Henry O'Connor.
Club Registrar ..... Finbar Staunton.

The club fielded senior, junior, under–21, minor, under–16 and under–14 teams in 1980. The senior team got off to a great start in the county league with a win over Oughterard at Pearse Stadium on Sunday 21st March 1980. The final score was Fr. Griffins 0–12 Oughterard 1–5. Best for Griffins were Tom Vaughen, Liam Sammon, Wally French and Brendan O'Shea.

The under–21s started the first round of the championship with a good win over old rivals Moycullen in Pearse Stadium. The final score was Fr. Griffins 1–19 Moycullen 3–4.

The Fr. Griffins team was – Ray Conlon, Martin Connolly, Andrew Heffernan, Niall Elwood, Joe Conway, Pat O'Connor, Oliver Hynes, Tom Moffatt, Frank Brady, Tommy Connolly, Matt Ruane, Michael Ryan, Eugene Dowling, Mike Heffernan, George Hanley.

On the 25th April our senior team scored another win in the county league over Mountbellew at Mountbellew after a hard fought game. The final score was Fr. Griffins 0-10 Mountbellew 1-4.
The Griffins team was - Denis Flynn, Donal O'Sullivan, Brendan O'Shea, Barney Costello, Tony Regan, Tom Vaughen, Pat McSharry, Jim Noone, Denis O'Shea, Wally French, Pat Winters, Vincent Gilmore, Johnny Faherty, Liam Sammon, Gerry Mahony.

In the Co. Championship Griffins were drawn against Tuam in the first round. This game took place in Pearse Stadium in May, and Tuam won easily by 2-9 to 0-9. Best for Griffins were B. O'Shea, M. Nolan, T. Vaughan, T. Regan, L. Sammon and Pat Elwood.

"Old Soldiers Never Die". Mick Dowling, Seán Purcell, Paddy O'Brien, Fr. Tony Hoade, Paddy Higgins and Mick Dolan at back. This was the occasion of a visit home from Australia by Rev. Fr. Tony Hoade in June, 1989.

1981

Our senior team was drawn against North Connemara in the first round of the county championship in 1981, this game was played in Oughterard on Sunday 1st May. The score was Fr. Griffins 8-12 North Connemara 0-6. The team lined out as follows - M. Heffernan, P. Madden, A. Heffernan, D. Collins, Brendan Geraghty, T. Morris, B. Sullivan, F. Brady, G. Murphy, D. Sands, P. Elwood, J. Noone, C. McDonagh, M. Nolan, M. Fitzgerald.

Apart from this win, our teams at all levels, failed to live up to expectations and at year's end we were no longer a senior club.

However, the highlight of the year was the winning of the All-Ireland Figure Dancing in the Scor Na nOg competition for the second time. After winning through in West Galway and the county final these young girls did both the club and county proud in winning the All-Ireland final in Limerick on the 12th April. The team that took part were as follows - Mary Delargy, Ann Redihan, Rosemary Higgins, Nora Nestor, Mary Cloherty, Eileen Lawless, Patricia McDonagh and Geraldine Heneghan.

Another happy group. Front row, from left: Colie McDonagh, Tony Hoade, Joe Keville, Paddy Higgins. Second row: Paddy O'Brien, Mick Sullivan, Henry O'Connor. Third row: Jimmy Ward, Tom Keaveny, Mick Dolan. Back row: Mick Dowling, Tom Higgins, Jim Kilroy, Oliver O'Rourke.

1982

The following officers were elected to run the affairs of the club for 1982 –

President ..... Mick Dowling
Vice-Presidents ..... Paddy Higgins, Jimmy Ward, Mick O'Sullivan, Jim Kilroy
Chairman ..... Seamus Cox
Vice-Chairman ..... Denis Flynn
Secretary ..... Tom Qualter
Assistant Secretary ..... Tom Sands
Treasurer ..... Paddy Higgins
P.R.O. ..... Finbar Staunton
Registrar ..... Gerry Mahony
Football Board Delegate ..... Pat Drummond
Social Activities ..... Mick O'Sullivan
Youth Officer ..... Jim Kilroy
Committee ..... Brendan O'Shea, Paddy Flaherty, Tom Higgins, Mick Dolan, Oliver O'Rourke, Leo McCaffrey, Henry O'Connor, John Flaherty, Liam Forde.

Team Managers :
Intermediate ..... Gerry Mahony,
Junior ..... Brendan O'Shea,
Under-21 ..... Gay Grealish, Mick Dolan and Colie McDonagh.
Under 14-16 ..... Brendan Qualter, Mike Burke.

As a result of a motion passed at the county football board convention in Oughterard on Sunday 5th of January 1982 it was decided that teams of Division 1C would be graded as Intermediate and the two bottom teams in Division 2 would be relegated to Intermediate. Unfortunately our senior team finished at bottom of Division 2 in the 1981 league.

The first game our intermediates played was in the West G.P.C. league against Salthill in Pearse Stadium. After a very hard fought game Salthill won. The final score was Salthill 1-6 Fr. Griffins 0-6. Liam Sammon transferred to Salthill earlier in the year and he played that day against his old club to which he gave gallant service over the years. The Fr. Griffins team that day was M. Winters, T. Morris, K. McDonagh, A. Heffernan, B. Geraghty, D. Collins, M. Higgins, F. Brady, P. Elwood, M. Walsh, J. Noone, M. Heffernan, M. Fitzgerald, M. Nolan, V. Gilmore.

In the county championship Fr. Griffins Intermediate team were drawn against St. Gabriels. The first round game was played in Duggan Park, Ballinasloe on the 28th May. The game was a hard fought one. A rather harsh decision by the Ballinasloe referee John Molloy saw Miko Nolan sent off in the second half. The final score was St. Gabriel's 0-9, Fr. Griffins 0-8.
Fr. Griffins - Mick Winters, Kevin McDonagh, Andrew Heffernan, Colie McDonagh, Mike Heffernan, Vincent Gilmore, Michael Higgins Frank Brady, Jim Noone, Michael Fitzgerald, Pat Elwood, Ray Hughes, Stephen Ruane, Miko Nolan, Fursy Darcy.

Finding themselves knocked out of the intermediate championship after the first round the intermediate team got down to business in the West G.P.C. league and had some good wins. They defeated St. Michael's by 2-9 to 1-5, Killererin by 1-11 to 0-2 and Clifden by 1-14 to 1-3. This left the team runners up in the league and another game with Salthill in the final of the West G.P.C. of the league was eagerly awaited.

The junior team got off to a good start with a good win over Killererin in the league with the score 0-11 to 0-4. They also defeated Barna by 1-11 to 1-2. Another great win was against old rivals Oranmore/Maree in Pearse Stadium on a wet and windy Sunday in August. The score was Fr. Griffins 1-14 Oranmore/Maree 1-1.
Fr. Griffins - Paul McKee, Pat Kelly, Jim McMahon, Colie Finnerty, Pat McSharry, Brendan O'Shea, Brendan Qualter, Denis O'Shea 0-2, Mike Ryan 0-1, Leo McCaffrey 0-2, Pat Winters, Denis Flynn 0-3, John Faherty 1-2, Pat O'Brien, Gerry Mahony 0-4,
Sub. Mick Byrne for B. Qualter (injured).

In Junior B. Championship Fr. Griffins opening game was against Na Piarsaigh at Lettermore on Sunday 12th June and they came out winners by the score Fr. Griffins 3-11 to Na Piarsaigh 0-2. Scorers for Griffins were Colm Naughton 1-0, Mike Ryan 0-2, Shay Comer 0-1, Colie Finnerty 0-1, Leo McCaffrey 1-5, Johnny Faherty 1-2.
Their next game was against Renmore who won with the score Renmore 0-10 Fr. Griffins 0-8. Their last game in the league was against Mervue on 27th August at Mervue and Mervue were the winners. The score was Mervue 1-13 Griffins 1-7.

In the meantime Fr. Griffins Intermediates reached the final of the county's intermediate losers group. That game was against Barna and played in Pearse Stadium on October 15th in very wet and windy

conditions. Despite the conditions the game was played at a cracking pace. Playing against a strong wind Griffins opened the scoring with a great goal scored by Pat Winters in the first minute of the game. But after this early setback Barna settled down to play some excellent football and making full use of the strong wind they went in at half-time with the score of 0-7 to 1-0. Straight from the restart Fr. Griffins settled down to play some excellent football with scores from Pat Elwood (0-2), Jim Noone (0-1) and Pat Winters (0-1) to draw level. And with ten minutes remaining they were awarded a penalty when Barna goalie Michael Sweeney was deemed by referee Pat Ferriter to have overheld the ball. Jim Noone was nominated to take the kick but to the delight of the Barna supporters their goalie made an excellent save. The reprieve gave Barna new vigour and from the clearance they went into attack and put Griffins under severe pressure. Griffins full-back Andrew Heffernan fielded a great ball in the square and found midfielder Jim Noone who in turn found Vincent Ruane who soloed down the wing and sent the ball over the bar for the best score of the day to secure the lead for Griffins. The remaining five minutes were fought out in a welter of excitement with Barna pulling out all the stops to get the equaliser through a great point by T. Curran. It looked at this stage with only minutes remaining that a draw was in store but with a last desperate assault on the Barna goal Griffins were awarded a free some 40 yards out and with the last kick of the match the great hearted Colie McDonagh steered the ball over the bar to clinch victory for Griffins.

A special County Board trophy was presented to team captain Jim Noone by Vice County Board Chairman Jack Mahon.

The team - Mick Winters, Paddy Madden, Andrew Heffernan, Brendan O'Shea, Michael Higgins, Dermot Collins, Kevin McDonagh, Jim Noone 0-1, Pat Elwood 0-2, Mike Heffernan, Vincent Gilmore, Michael Fitzgerald, Pat Sands, Pat Winters 1-1, Colie McDonagh 0-1.

Subs. Vincent Ruane 0-1 for M. Fitzgerald, Dinny O'Shea for V. Gilmore.

1983

Fr. Griffins first game of 1983 was the 1982 West G.P.C. Intermediate final with Salthill played at Pearse Stadium on Sunday 18th March. Griffins led for most of the game and were six points ahead going into the last quarter of the game when Salthill scored four points in quick succession and a goal by Liam Sammon in the last minute of the game leaving Salthill the winners with the score Salthill 1-6 Fr. Griffins 1-4.
Fr. Griffins - Mick Winters, Paddy Madden, Andrew Heffernan, Brendan O'Shea, Kevin McDonagh, Dermot Collins, Colie McDonagh, Jim Noone, Frank Brady, Michael Higgins, Pat Elwood, Vincent Gilmore, Stephen Ruane, Tom Morris, Mike Heffernan.
Sub. Pat Sands for Pat Elwood.

Owing to the number of teams in the West G.P.C. being greater than the number of intermediate teams in the North G.P.C. Fr. Griffins were designated to play in North Galway in the league. In their first game they were narrowly defeated by Kilconly in Pearse Stadium. The score was Kilconly 0-10 Fr. Griffins 0-7. In their next game they had a sweeping victory over Headford in Headford on the score of Fr. Griffins 3-8 Headford 1-7. Other victories recorded by them over Kiltormer, Dunmore McHales, Glynsk and Caltra put them runners-up with Kilconly in the division. Kilconly were again victors in the league final played in Tuam Stadium on the 7th October.

In the championship Headford gained sweet revenge for their defeat in the league when they defeated Fr. Griffins in the first round of the championship. That game was played in Athenry on 27th May. This was a hard fought game played in excellent conditions. Two early goals by Headford gave them a firm grip of the game. Despite a great fight back by Griffins in the second half Headford stood firm to win by four points. Kevin McDonagh, Miko Nolan and Pierce Piggott played their hearts out for Griffins. This again found Fr. Griffins intermediate team out of the championship after the first round for the second successive year. This left them with only the losers competition to redeem themselves and that they did with good wins over Williamstown and Dunmore McHales which brought them to the final against Micheal Breathnachs.

This final was played in Pearse Stadium on the 21st November. This was a tough hard-fought game but hard knocks were given and taken in a very sporting manner. Micheal Breathnachs had a dream start with a goal in the first minute but their jubilation was short lived when the score was disallowed as a Griffins back was deemed to have been fouled before the score was taken. From the resultant free midfielder Mike Heffernan got possession and placed Michael Fitzgerald for the opening

score for Griffins. A further point by Fitzgerald and a goal by Frank Brady left them leading at half-time by the score 1-2 to 0-3. In the second half Breathnachs scored a goal and a point without reply from Griffins who looked to be in serious trouble. However they fought back with great spirit with points from Frank Brady, Pat Elwood and Fitzgerald again. Breathnachs made an all out effort to save the day but with two great saves by goalie Pat Sands and some heroic displays by Dermot Collins at centre-half back Fr. Griffins held on to win. The final score was Fr. Griffins 1-7 Micheal Breathnachs 1-5. The cup was presented by Jack Mahon County Football Board Vice-Chairman to team captain Dermot Collins.
Fr. Griffins - Pat Sands, Kevin McDonagh, Brendan O'Shea, Andrew Heffernan, Terry McDermott, Dermot Collins, Brian McKiernan, Mike Heffernan, Pat Elwood, Michael Fitzgerald, Ray Hughes, Tommy Connolly, Michael Higgins, Frank Brady, Jimmy Elwood.

Trip to London

Perhaps the highlight of the year was the club weekend trip to London at Easter. Leaving on Friday morning the party of forty-one comprising of players and club members travelled by coach to Dublin and from there flew to Heathrow Airport arriving at 11am.

On Saturday morning the party went on a conducted tour of London taking in all historical centres of the city. That night they were entertained by the host club John Mitchell's. Tom Conneely (a native of Clifden) presented Seamus Cox Fr. Griffins chairman with a special inscribed trophy and miniature statuettes to the players and club officials to commemorate their visit. On Sunday the club played a challenge football match for a set of trophies presented by the Fr. Griffins club at Hackney. This proved to be a most enjoyable match and from a Griffins point of view it had a most satisfactory outcome when one considers the festivities and the late retiral of many of the players on the previous night. Griffins got off to a slow start and at the end of the first quarter they were led by five points to two and trailed at half time by 0-6 to 0-5. The second half saw a vast improvement in the Griffins display. Their backs inspired by Brendan O'Shea and Dermot Collins tightened up considerably. Frank Brady at centre field came into his own and some top class scores from forwards Michael Higgins, Mike Heffernan, Vincent Gilmore and a superb goal from Johnny Faherty established Fr. Griffins superiority and they ran out worthy winners on the score of 1-9 to 0-7.
Fr. Griffins - Mick Winters, Pat Kelly, Andrew Heffernan, Brendan O'Shea, Kevin McDonagh, Dermot Collins, Gerry Mahony, Denis O'Shea, Frank Brady, Michael Higgins, Tom Morris, Mike Heffernan,

Henry O'Connor, Johnny Faherty, Vincent Gilmore, Subs Pat O'Brien, Neville Delap and Fursy Darcy.

The special trophies were presented to the Fr. Griffins team by the Secretary of the London County Board Pat Griffin (a native of Kerry) and the runners up trophies to John Mitchells. He praised both teams for a sporting and entertaining hour's football. To finish off the proceedings Jimmy Kilroy presented Tom Conneely of John Mitchell's and Pat Griffin of the London County Board with special inscribed clocks set in Connemara marble which were presented by John Flaherty of the Lisheen Bar, Galway in appreciation for making the necessary arrangements for the trip. The final farewell took place on Sunday night at the Manor Court Hotel, Earls Court with a get-together of the Liam Mellows Hurling Club who were also in London for Easter.

Fr. Griffins Club Dinner 1987. Back row, from left: Jim Kilroy, Henry O'Connor, Mick Sullivan, Pat Sands, Mick Dolan. Front row: Paddy O'Brien, Mick Dowling, Gerry Mahony, Paddy Higgins.

1984

The start of 1984 was of sadness on the sudden death of Jack Divilly, Presentation Road who was regarded as one of the outstanding members of the club. Sincere sympathy was extended to his widow Anne and son Peter on their great loss.

A special committee was set up by the club to look after juvenile grades. This committee comprised of the Club Chairman Seamus Cox, Club Secretary Tom Qualter, Pat Niland, Brendan Qualter, Colm Hannelly, Pat Newell, Tom Burke and Maolisa O' Cualachain an army officer stationed in Renmore Barracks. Training sessions were set up for under-12 players in the Riverside pitch and in the Plots, Woodquay for under-16 and under-14 players. A very attractive club league was organised for the under-12 players and some very exciting games were played at the Riverside ground on Sunday mornings. The finals were played on Saturday 27th April at the same grounds in glorious sunshine. A large crowd of parents turned up to watch the games. The final results were Cormac Flanagan's 8-7 John Peacock's 6-7, Losers group - Alan Shaughnessy's 4-9 Fintan Lawlor's 6-2.

In the meantime the under-14 team started the league campaign with a good win over Maree-Oranmore on the score 2-9 to 1-1 and over Killererin 4-9 to 0-2 and also over Lettermore by 3-7 to 1-6. This win brought them to the county semi-final against Caltra. This game was played in the Tuam Stadium and again Fr. Griffins were successful with the score Fr. Griffins 2-9 to Caltra 1-7. Their next game was against Corofin in the final played again in Tuam Stadium on the 18th August. After a great game of football Griffins ran out winners. The final score was Fr. Griffins 3-4 Corofin 1-4. Fr. Griffins - Andrew Tobin, Mike Kelly, Jimmy Tonry (Captain), Liam Grealish, Tim Sullivan, Pat Egan, Brendan Harris, Nigel Casey, Kieran Conneely, Liam Glynn, Johnny Kelly, Kevin Mc Donnell, Michael Cox, Sean Buckley, Alister Conway.

The intermediate team opened their championship campaign with a great win over Kiltormer in Loughrea on 13th July played in ideal conditions. Scorers for Griffins were Matt Ruane 0-4, Stephen Ruane 0-3, Pat Sands 1-1, Ray Hughes 0-2, Colm Naughton 0-1, Vincent Ruane 0-1, Pat Elwood 0-2. The final score was Fr. Griffins 1-14 Kiltormer 0-9. The intermediate team's next game was against Cortoon in the County Semi-final played in Tuam Stadium on Sunday 18th August. After a hard fought game with some poor finishing by Griffins forwards which proved costly in the end Cartoon won with the final score Cortoon 0-10 Griffins 0-8.

The Gaelic Athletic Association called on all clubs throughout the country to set aside Sunday of the August Bank Holiday for activities within each club. Fr. Griffins and Liam Mellows hurling club joined forces for the day starting off with mass celebrated in Saint Patrick's Church, Forster Street at 12 noon. It was then on to the new Liam Mellows pitch at Ballyloughane. Because of the number of dual players involved with both clubs it was decided to play football and hurling Fr. Griffins V Liam Mellows. Liam Mellows won the hurling and Fr. Griffins won the football. It was interesting to see untapped talent, the most notable being the display of former county footballer Pat Sands as a hurling goalkeeper. The following are the results in the athletics events held later in the day –

Tiny Tots – 1 Brona Byrne, 2 Fiona Sands, 3 Emer Sands
Under 6 – 1 Brona Byrne, 2 Fiona Sands, 3 Emer Sands
Boys Under 8 – 1 John Forde, 2 Donal Keane
Girls Under 8 – 1 Joanne Byrne, 2 Ann McSweeney
Boys Under 10 – 1 Nigel Carolan, 2 John Murphy
Girls Under 10 – 1 Clauda Madden, 2 Joanne Byrne
Boys Under 12 – 1 Glen Carolan, 2 Nigel Carolan, 3 G. Murphy
Boys Under 14 – 1 Nigel Carolan, 2 Sean Buckley, 3 L. Niland
Boys Under 16 – 1 Ronan Niland, 2 Derek Niland, 3 D. McSweeney
Girls Under 16 – 1 Una Keane, 2 Clodagh Madden
Mothers Race was won by Mrs. Maureen Keane.

In the Griffins V Liam Mellows tug-of-war Mellows won with two straight pulls.

Puck Fada Under 16 was won by Fergal Keane
Puck Fada Under 12 was won by Gerry Murphy
Mike Walsh of Woodquay had the unique distinction of bringing off the double in the Senior Hurling and football Puck Fada.

The day ended with a very enjoyable buffet and social in Galway Rowing Club.

During the year Gerry Mahony who is attached to the army in Renmore Barracks left for a six month's tour of duty in the Lebanon. The club wished Gerry best wishes and a safe journey.

1985

Fr. Griffins Junior B team started 1985 under the management of Johnny Faherty of College Road. He brought together a panel of twenty-eight players comprising of a mixture of youth and experienced players. He used the West G.P. league as a means of moulding together a solid team for the championship. They had a good win over Killererin in the first round. In the second round they defeated old rivals and neighbours St. Michaels. They defeated Kilrickle in the semi-final of the western division and went on to defeat Oranmore-Maree in the final.

In the final of the County Championship they met Tommy Larkins. The game was played in Kilbeacanty on Sunday 29th September. The game was evenly contested for the first twenty minutes. Griffins were leading by one point 0-3 to 0-2 when Martin Conneely blasted in a great goal to leave the half time score Fr. Griffins 1-3 Tommy Larkins 0-2. Griffins went further ahead in the second half with points from Gerry Sullivan and Mike Laffey. Larkins began to take control at midfield and Griffins lead was reduced from five points to two. Then Clare-born Leo Quinlan replaced the injured Sean Hynes at mid-field for Griffins and held on to a dramatic win. The final score was Fr. Griffins 1-5 Tommy Larkins 0-6. The cup was presented to Pat Sands, captain of the team by Tom Kelly East Board Chairman.
The team and subs. - Leo McCaffrey, Paddy Madden, Brendan O'Shea, Paul McKee, Mike Ryan, Niall Elwood, Dermot Coll, Denis O'Shea, Sean Hynes, Gerry Sullivan, Mike Laffey, Mike Burke, Pat Sands, Martin Connelly, Leo Quinlan, Michael Higgins, Brendan Qualter, Pat O'Brien, Sean Holian.

On the following Sunday Fr. Griffins minors were narrowly defeated by Athenry in the county minor final after having some great wins in the West over Spiddal and Lettermore on the score of 4-5 to 1-7. In the county semi-final they defeated St. Grellans in a hectic game played in Loughrea on Saturday September 13th. In the county final played in Tuam Stadium on Sunday October 3rd the final score was Athenry 1-9 Fr. Griffins 1-6.

A very attractive club league was organised among players of all grades within the club. The following were the teams -

1. Pat Sands' team -
Mick Winters, Pat Elwood, Gerry Sullivan, Brendan O'Shea, Andrew Heffernan, Lar Hynes, Eugene Mulligan, Colie McDonagh, Martin Connolly, Leo McCaffrey, Brian McKiernan, Paul McKee, Dominick

Coll, Mike Ryan, Frank Costello, Pat O'Brien, Pat Sands, Des Conroy, Henry O'Connor, Gerry Mahony, Denis Flynn.

2. Mike Heaney's team –
Peter Burke, Vincent Gilmore, Mick Kelly, Eugene O'Loughlin, Tom Morris, Mike Heaney, Ray Hughes, Brian Laffey, Tommy Connolly, Martin Conneely, Gay Grealish, Pat Kelly, Paddy Madden, Neville Delapp, David Croke, Tony Davis, Francis O'Shea, Shay Comer, Johnny Faherty, Michael Grealish, Mick Burns, Kevin Coyne.

3. Mike Heffernan's team –
Tim Sweeney, Frank Brady, Mike Heffernan, Louis Stenson, Maolisa O'Cuallachan, Mike Walsh, Michael Hynes, Niall Elwood, Ultan Bennett, Mike Burke, Kevin Heffernan, Pat Sweeney, Tom Richardson, Brendan Qualter, Joe Marlborough, Garry Elwood, Ger Cameron, John Burke, Jim McMahon, Eugene Sheridan, Johnny Lowery Mick Carolan.

4. Mike Laffey's team –
Mick Hogan, Johnny Walsh, Colm Naughton, Kevin McDonagh, Denis O'Shea, Jimmy Laffey, Jimmy Elwood, Tommy Cox, Mike Laffey, Peter Laffey, Sean Hynes, Paul Heffernan, Sean Holian, Paul Burke, Frank Grealish, Frank O'Brien, John Walsh (Woodquay) Miko Nolan, Dermot Collins, Jimmy Neill, Ray McFadden, Tom Fahy.

In the first game Pat Sands' team defeated Mike Heaney's team by 3–7 to 2–6. In the second game Mike Heffernan's team defeated Mike Laffey's team by 2–7 to 1–8. In the final Mike Heffernan's team defeated Pat Sands team by 3–10 to 1–11. After the game Jimmy Ward presented the Guinness Cup to Mike Heffernan captain of the winning team. He also presented gear–bags to all the players who took part in the competition.

On November 1st 1985 the Limavaddy Wolf Hounds Football Club from Derry came to Galway and were guests of the Fr. Griffins club during the weekend. The visitors stayed in the Western Hotel, Prospect Hill. They played a game with Saint Michael's in Pearse Stadium on Saturday and on Sunday they played the host club Fr. Griffins in Liam Mellows ground in Ballyloughane. The Derry club were guests at a function in the Mellows Clubhouse that night given by the Fr. Griffins club.

At the function Sean Brady, Chairman of the Derry County Board presented a plaque to Mick Carolan, chairman of Fr. Griffins Club and also presented a book on a hundred years history of the G.A.A. in Derry

A group at the Annual Club Reunion in December 1986. Back row: Pat Sands, Brian McKiernan, Mick Sullivan, Con Crowley, Mick Dolan, Henry O'Connor, Matt Deane, Brendan O'Shea, Denis O'Shea. Front row: Jimmy Ward, Paddy O'Brien, Mick Dowling, Mayor John Mulholland, Pat Niland and Paddy Higgins.

to Tom Qualter, Secretary of Griffins. Sean Brady also presented a plaque to Paddy Murphy Chairman of Liam Mellows club to commemorate their visit to Galway.

Before the visitors returned home on Monday morning the Mayor of Galway, Mrs. Bridie O'Flaherty, accorded them a civic reception at Arus Failte, Eyre Square. Speaking at the reception the Mayor stated that it was great to see two football clubs extending the hand of friendship across the border. The Mayor went on to state that if more of these visits took place between clubs North and South of the border Ireland would be a better country. Michael Carolan, chairman of the Fr. Griffins club presented a beautiful Royal Tara commemorative plaque to the Limavaddy chairman in remembrance of their visit to Galway.

Having won the Junior B League and Under 15 County Championship 7-a-side in 1985 things looked promising for Fr. Griffins, however, it was not to be, as the club has not won any competition since that time. Despite disappointments Fr. Griffins can proudly state that the club fulfils all engagements and we field teams at Junior A, Junior B, U-21, Minor, U-16, U-14, U-13 and U-12 levels. In all, the club has approximately 150 registered players. To look after these players we needed trainers and the following have helped out in this respect -

Pat Sands, Johnny Flaherty, Gerry Mahony, Henry O'Connor, Mick Dolan, Pat Niland, Tom Qualter, Frank Cloonan, Colm Hannelly, Mick Lafferty, Sean Hynes, Padraig Egan, Pat O'Cuallachain, Brendan Qualter, Mike Burke, Tom Sands, Tom Morris and Colie McDonagh. To transport the juveniles to out of town matches the club usually hires a coach but for the games nearer to home many of the trainers graciously place their cars at the club's disposal. Other club members who provide transport are -

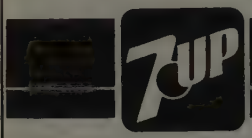
Paddy Higgins, Tom Higgins, Mick Dowling, Oliver O'Rourke, Con Crowley, Paddy Flaherty, Liam Roche and Larry Hynes.

Club Trophies

The Fr. Tony Hoade cup is presented to the clubman of the year, the Jack Divilly memorial cup to the footballer of the year. Special trophies are presented to the young footballer of the year as well as presentations to the most improved player, for attendance at training sessions, dedication, etc. Competition is very keen in our club leagues for the Naomh Padraig Credit Union cup and the games for the Guinness cup.

Conclusion

Having come to the end of our first 40 years which was most successful we eagerly look forward to the challenge of the next forty years and we have no doubt Fr. Griffins will be around for a long time.



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We compete — you win

SCOR

by Mick Dolan

Throughout the 70's and early 80's Scor grew from strength to strength and indeed rated highly in our Club activities. Competition in this period was at its keenest and support was such that packed halls were the order of the day. At County, Provincial and especially National level the demand for tickets caused the long suffering County Secretary, Patsy Conway, many a sleepless night. We were not without our successes recording wins right up to and including national level.

Apart from the competitive aspect there are those of us who recall the great enjoyment our club nights brought about prior to travelling the hard road in search of county honours. The solo song on club night was always the one to attract the big entry. Everyone seemed to have a go and the lounge in the American Hotel witnessed talent that up to then had never surfaced and indeed, for that matter, sank just as fast but such was the spirit of the occasion. No successes in this event came our way but full marks to Finbar Staunton RIP, Colie McDonagh, Seamus Cox, Joe Darcy and the many others who gave of their best. Mind you a thought should also be spared for the adjudicators – Ned Mulholland RIP and Martin Newell. Like many before and since their choice did not always meet with universal approval but nevertheless they did their best and one could not readily agree with the suggestion made that they "should stick to football".

Sporadic attempts were made at the recitation with many valiant efforts but really for us it was the fun event. To the lads who had a go we say thanks for the willing effort. One particular effort stands out but official secrecy acts prevent us from naming the individual. Supporters travelling with him to a West Board Final in Oranmore felt the necessity to give him some eleventh hour rehearsal and as a consequence several stops were made on the way, the last one at that well known thatched establishment in the heart of down-town Oranmore. The result was somewhat hilarious and while the audience in the Convent hall rocked in their seats at our hero's presentation the adjudicators seemed to be looking for something more profound.

The 'Novelty Act' also provided its moments but here again our entry could only be described as sporadic. Our best effort must have been our presentation of "What will the Bishop say?" which only for misfortune would have deserved a better fate. The theme of the act was inspired and scripted by Fr. Paddy Lee then P.P. at St. Patrick's. By the time it hit the boards it had received many a re-write and all of the cast deemed it their divine right to contribute their own little bit. The act based on a County Board hearing of an objection to the playing of an illegal player was set in the snug of a country pub. The strength of the

act lay on the reaction of each of the performers as the pub becomes the subject of an after-hours raid resulting in bedlam in closing stages. As Fr. Lee himself performed the part of the Rev. Fr. Chairman it can easily be seen where the title came from.

We got through the preliminary round and on the night of the W.B. final with minutes to go we learned that Fr. Lee due to illness could not be with us. An immediate reshuffle of cast took place with the introduction of our only stage hand, to fill the gap and the divesting of a very confused cleric in the audience to provide the necessary front for our new Rev. Chairman. Needless to say in the circumstances we were not up to the mark but the crack was good and will be long remembered by all concerned. Incidentally the script is still available and who knows if .....

'Question Time' was to bring us our first success at County Level in 1972. Our team consisted of Emmet Farrell, Michael Holohan and Michael Monaghan. The same squad confidently faced 1973 and much to their shock and the amusement of all others they were beaten into second place within our own Club competition. Blushes were saved when they were given the club's second nomination (possible in those days where the Club had a minor section). So began the great Clifden saga and the 'Connemara Bus'. As a cost saving device the city clubs chartered a bus to the preliminary W.B. competition in Clifden. Having survived what proved a very hectic journey they arrived at their destination to find that the very substantial audience numbers was equally measured in the number of competitors. With an entry of 25 teams for the quiz alone there was much hilarity, huffing and puffing as officials strove to organise the teams who were presented on stage in relays. To add to the confusion our 'B' team drew with Liam Mellows resulting in much further delay with a sudden death play off. All managed to get home eventually. Our team failed to St. Michael's in the W.B. Final but the trip on the 'Connemara Bus' was deemed equal to County honours.

In 1977 we had a new combination in Sean Lawless RIP, Kevin O'Sullivan and Pat McSharry who repeated the '72 success in taking county honours. In 1978 we went one step further when we took the Connacht title with Michael Monaghan back to join O'Sullivan and Lawless. This is the year we feel we were hard done losing the All-Ireland by a mere two points to Munster Champions. As it turned out the result hinged on a four marker taken by Kevin O'Sullivan as to 'the largest lake in Europe'. His 'Caspian Sea' reply proved unacceptable. The answer sought by the adjudicators was 'Lake Lagofa'. The argument still continues as to the correct answer and despite its controversial nature question masters still come up with this

old chestnut with resultant controversy irrespective of which answer is given.

While '79 drew a blank our '78 team got back on a winning trail in '80 when they again took the county title. Our remaining success was in '83 when again Kevin O'Sullivan with Mick Delaney and Tom Murphy gained a further county title.

All in all not a bad performance in a period when the Quiz was considered the most competitive of all the competitions. The battles at county level were always a thriller particularly when the opposition came from the clubs of our footballing rivals. There was an All Ireland in there to be taken but we just did not have the luck or the break when same was most required. However we can feel proud of our flag bearers who brought us the following titles –

West Board – '72, '73, '77, '78, '80, '83 (6)
County – '72, '77, '78, '80, '83 (5)
Connacht – '78 (1)

Our greatest honours came our way through Scor na nOg 'Figure Dance' team. In 1977 our team reached the All Ireland but failed narrowly to Ballyholland at Leisureland. In 1978 with the same team they won out the West Board but suffered disappointment when beaten at county final stage by Loughrea. Being the great little troopers they were, 1979 saw them back again on a winning streak. With the same squad they swept through Connacht but as in 1977 they failed at All Ireland level this time to na Fianna at the National Stadium in Dublin. Dedication was eventually to bring its own reward. The defeats of '77 and '79 only strengthened their resolve to succeed and so they did with All Ireland honours coming their way in Leisureland in 1980 with a further All Ireland win at the Savoy in Limerick in 1981.

The remarkable feature of this team is that of the eight who blazed the trail in 1977 in what is an under–16 competition, there were still 5 of the original team on the winning 1981 squad. In 1980 Rosemarie Higgins came in for Teresa Feeley. In 1981 we had Patricia McDonagh and Helen Lawless replace Margaret Joyce and Nuala McDonagh. The remaining five who survived the full period of 1977 to 1982 were Mary Cloherty, Nora Nestor, Aine Redahan, Geraldine Heneghan and Mary Delargy.

Their first All Ireland triumph in 1980 will be particularly remembered for its drama. Under the headline "Geraldine went above and beyond the call of duty" the drama is best recalled by the following report from the Tuam Herald.

Victory Ceile -- Dominican Hall, Claddagh, 1980. Front row: Mary Delargy, Margaret Joyce, Aine Redahen, Rosemarie Higgins, Geraldine Heneghan, Nuala McDonagh, Mary Cloherty, Nora Nestor. Middle row: Fergal O'Boyle, Willie Needham, Michael O'Sullivan, Kevin O'Sullivan, Paddy Higgins, J. P. Cusack (Co. Scor Chair), Jim Kilroy (Club Chair), Michael Dolan, Sean Lawless (R.I.P.), Jim Pratt, Kevin Joyce. Back row: Yvonne Pratt, Michael Duffy, Geraldine Baxter, Martina Heneghan, Kevin Feeney, Anne Cameron. Missing: Michael Monaghan (Quiz).

"Galway supporters at the Scor na nOg national finals in Leisureland on Saturday night wondered why the Galway figure dancing team did not appear on schedule as the second of four competing groups. They forgot the question when the team did appear fourth and went on to win the All Ireland championship for the first time. When Fr. Griffins officials met their team afterwards they discovered a tale of minor heroism behind the victory, of how one girl went above and beyond the call of duty. For while she was waiting in the wings 15 year old Geraldine Heneghan, grand-daughter of County G.A.A. Treasurer Mark Heneghan, Ballybane, sat on a chair intended for one of the novelty acts which collapsed under her. She was badly cut on one leg and for a while it looked as though she could not go on. A quick first aid job was done on the spot and Geraldine and her seven team mates danced their way to victory. Then it was a quick dash to the casualty department of the Regional Hospital where she got three stitches and back to Leisureland to collect the trophy. This was the girls' first All Ireland victory after four years dancing together. They were the only winners from Co. Galway this year".

The same paper reporting in the 1981 All Ireland win at Limerick recalls

"The ever delightful Fr Griffins figure dancers retained their All Ireland crown which they took for the first time last year. Full marks to the group too for their excellent maroon and white costumes of which every Galway supporter felt proud".

By 1982 the old brigade gave way having done their part to a new team consisting of Carol Ann Walsh, Louise Cullan, Margaret Nestor, Mary Colleran, Patricia Connelley, Serena Farragher, Jacqueline McDonagh and Cecily Stewart. Like their predecessors they swept through Galway and Connacht failing narrowly at All Ireland stage. The venue was once again the National Stadium in Dublin which as can be seen, and from what is to follow, proved our bogey venue. The complete record in this event of successes is as follows –

West Board - 1977-1982 (6)
County - 1977, 1979-1982 (5)
Connacht - 1977, 1979-1982 (5)
All Ireland - 1980, 1982 (2)

We indeed had some remarkable performances in this golden era. It must be said it was not without the greatest of efforts with nothing soft coming the way of the competitors. All being members of the Celine Hession School of Dancing was a great advantage and indeed we must express our gratitude to Celine not alone for the use of her premises but also for her ever watchful eye and advice. Over the period practices were taken by her tutors Patsy Coyne and Shelia Stewart. Both of these ladies gave of their best and the results are there to be seen. The youngsters themselves showed an unbelievable commitment and proved great club ambassadors to the four corners of the country. The club would like to take this opportunity to express sincere thanks to the hard pressed parents without whose full support we could not have performed. We feel sure that they consider the effort has been well worthwhile, a view we share with equal pleasure.

Finally on this theme we could not let the occasion pass without special mention of that other support group - the musicians. In the earlier years we had Patsy McDonagh, brother of Colie, followed by the duo Fergal Boyle of Sligo, then a student at U.C.G. and Kevin Joyce a brother of Margaret of the 1977/80 team. Kevin before giving us his musical support was also the very young mascot of 1977 at Leisureland. We also got valuable assistance from Assumpta Finn of Athenry. They were all very accomplished musicians who because of the nature of the competition never got the limelight and yet whose part was so vital to the success of the dancers.

Back in 1977 on the night that we gained our first W.B. success at Scor na nOg we also took our one and only success at the Set Dance. The team on that occasion, dancing a half set, consisted of Martina Heneghan, Geraldine Baxter, Kevin Feeney and Michael Duffy. This group went senior in 1979 and joined by Yvonne Pratt, Anne Cameron, Ray McBride and Jim Pratt won the West Board Senior Figure Dance but failed to Loughrea at county level. The following year we lost Ray McBride (called to a different stage) but we were fortunate to find a replacement in Willie Needham a Mayo man just moved to Galway. The reformed eight took county and Connacht honours. The same team again won out in Connacht in 1981 and with Eugene Dowling to replace Jim Pratt went on to make it three Connacht titles in a row in 1982. This proved the end of an era for a great team but with six of the 1982 junior squad, Aine Redahan, Nora Nestor, Mary Cloherty, Rosemarie

Higgins, Geraldine Heneghan and Patricia McDonagh, joined by Geraldine Baxter and Anne Cameron we took yet another Connacht title in 1983. Our fourth successive visit to finals at the National Stadium Dublin failed to yield us national honours but nevertheless, we can be well pleased with our Roinnce Foilne successes summarised as follows –

West Board	– '79, '80, '81, '82, '83	(5)
County	– '80, '81, '82, '83	(4)
Connacht	– '80, '81, '82, '83	(4)

To Joan and Billy Heneghan a special word of thanks for the use of their kitchen for senior practices. Whilst the steps of the dancers could be seen to improve greatly from the twice weekly sessions one could hardly say the same for their floor coverings. Also our thanks to Joan and all the mothers who saw to the design and the making of the costumes so favourably commented upon in the local papers and indeed by friend and foe alike.

We had our great days in Scor. Our last successes rested with our dancing groups of 1983, a year in which our serious interest in these competitions ceased. There lies another story and for another occasion.

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THE EARLY DAYS - SOME FACTS AND FIGURES

By Paddy O'Brien

The club started from scratch in January 1948 and after the election of our first officers, the immediate task was to raise funds. At that meeting on the 29th January our founder John Cotter contributed one pound and the following contributed ten shillings each; John Davy, Billy Glynn, Sean Kindillon and Jimmy Ward. All others present at this meeting chipped in with the very popular 'half-a-crown' a man. It was also decided that all members would pay one shilling per week for three months until the club had time to organise a dance or flag day. Mick Lynch, Jimmy Ward, Stephen Lally and Sean Kindillon were appointed collectors and each had a list of members from whom they collected each week. This was a painless way of raising funds and here is a brief summary of its operation -

			£ - S - D
1/03/48	M. Lynch	1/= per week sub.	0 - 9 - 0
	J. Ward	1/= " " "	0 - 7 - 0
	S. Lally	1/= " " "	0 - 5 - 0
	S. Kindillon	1/= " " "	0 - 3 - 0
6/03/48	J. Ward	1/= " " "	0 - 5 - 0
	S. Kindillon	1/= " " "	0 - 6 - 0
13/03/48	M. Lynch	1/= " " "	0 -19 - 0
	S. Lally	1/= " " "	0 - 5 - 0
	J. Ward	1/= " " "	0 - 7 - 0
24/03/48	S. Lally	1/= " " "	0 - 3 - 0
2/04/48	M. Lynch	1/= " " "	1 - 2 - 0
3/04/48	J. Ward	1/= " " "	0 -12 - 0
11/04/48	S. Lally	1/= " " "	0 - 5 - 0

Heartiest congratulations to Fr. Griffins

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EXPENDITURES

Here are some expenses taken at random from the 1948 minutes book.

	£ – S – D
2 Gallons Petrol	0 – 4 –10
M. Collins Hotel Bill	1 – 7 – 6
Car Hire O'Flaherty's	2 –11 – 4
Minutes Book	0 – 3 – 0
Stamps	0 – 1 – 0
Rent of C.Y.M.S. Hall (4 meetings)	0 –10 – 0
Football	2 – 0 – 0
Valve for Pumping Ball	0 – 0 – 6
Cash Book	0 – 2 – 6
Affiliation and Registration	1 – 5 – 0
Football Bladder	0 – 4 – 6
Bottle Olive Oil	0 – 3 – 0
Insurance (Twenty–One players)	1 –12 – 0
Dance Advertisement (Connacht Tribune)	0 – 7 – 0
Rent Astaire Ballroom	15 – 0 – 0
Set of Jersey's (17) O'Mahoneys	14 – 0 – 6
Refreshments for Band (2 doz stout)	0 –13 – 0
Dance Tickets Galway Observer	0 –13 – 0
Imperial Hotel 7 teas (Meat Salad)	1 – 8 – 0
Waller Kelly (Masseur)	0 –10 – 0
C.I.E. 4 buses (Tuam Final)	27 – 0 – 0
Cup Filling Tuam	2 – 7 – 5
25 Meat Teas Odeon Tuam	5 – 0 – 0
Whelan's Btl. Embrocation	0 – 5 – 0
1 Glass Brandy	0 – 4 – 0
1 Glass Whiskey	0 – 2 – 8
1 Glass Port	0 – 1 –10
Gregory Dance Posters	0 –10 – 0
Corrib Ceilidhe Band	8 –16 – 0
Galway Radio Co. (Amplifying Unit)	0 –15 – 0
Washing Jersey's and Numbering	1 –17 – 0
Mass Offering	1 – 6 – 0
Printing Co.	1 – 3 – 0
Rent Astaire Ballroom	17 –10 – 0
Presentation Gift to Departing Member	6 – 0 – 0

The Fr. Griffin Dancers with Mick Loftus, later President of the G.A.A., pictured at the All-Ireland Competitions in Leisureland.

Another winning group that represented Fr. Griffins in the All-Ireland Championships.

INCOME

Again taken at random from the 1948 minutes book.

Some sources of income.	£ - S - D
Dance Proceeds (Astaire)	42 -11 - 6
Match Receipts	5 -17 - 9
Dance Proceeds (Commercial)	38 - 7 - 0
Cash from buses to final in Tuam	31 - 2 - 7
Cheque from Co. Board	13 - 2 - 6
Dance Proceeds (Commercial)	27 - 2 - 6
Proceeds of Sweep on Irish Gr. National	42 -16 - 6

Our main source of income in the early days came from dances, raffles, flag days and sweepstakes. The annual social and re-union dinner for our members and friends was heavily subsidised by the club as we had no desire to make a profit out of this festive occasion.

We did face a problem in organising our dances at that time because of the infamous ban then in force. This ban applied not only to 'foreign' games but also to 'foreign' dances, so G.A.A. clubs under the rules at that time were only allowed to hold a ceilidhe. The dance-going public in the main did not go to ceilidhe's and we did need their support so all our 'foreign' dances were staged by the 'Arthur Griffith Social Club' and the dogs in the road knew that was the Fr. Griffin G.A.A. club.

Sacre Coeur Hotel,

SALTHILL, GALWAY.

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Congrats to Fr. Griffins, every success in the future

Seán Dunleavy

SOME TRIPS
(Down under & Aran)

FR. GRIFFINS VISIT DOWN UNDER
By Paddy O'Brien

When Fr. Griffins won the County Senior championship in 1948, one of their better forwards was a young Kerry man named Paddy Lawlor, indeed Paddy scored a vital goal in this final. The following year he left Galway and shortly after that he emigrated to Australia. The story moves forward several years and it is now the mid '50's. The same Paddy Lawlor is a passenger on a bus travelling to a small town in the outback, when he observes a discarded newspaper on a seat. Something about this newspaper attracts his attention and on closer inspection he discovers it is an Irish paper, to be exact it is the Sunday Independent. Delighted at his good fortune in finding an Irish paper so far from home he starts to browse through the pages and coming to the sports section suddenly he is transfixed to his seat as there staring out from the centrefold is a photograph of himself or to be more precise a photograph of the Fr. Griffin team of 1948 of which he is a member. Now I will put a question to the reader, how many Irish newspapers would find their way to Australia back in the '50's? The answer must be very few indeed and of that number how many would be the Sunday Independent? The answer again must be a very, very small number. Yet here we have a young Irish lad, a passenger on a bus, picking up a discarded newspaper which happens to be an Irish paper, an Irish paper that carried a photograph of that same young man. The odds against such a happening must be astronomical – indeed there are shades of "Ripley's Believe it or Not" about this perfectly true story.

I first heard this story from Fr. Tony Hoade in 1964. Father Tony is now a parish priest in New South Wales. In the summer of 1988 the man himself Paddy Lawlor accompanied by his wife came on holiday to Ireland and paid a few visits to Galway to see an old friend and former team mate Mick Dowling. While in Galway Mick arranged a meeting between Paddy and myself, I questioned him about this "Believe it or not Story" and he confirmed it in detail as I have written it. He also told me that in 1956 he visited Melbourne to attend the Olympic Games and who should he meet there going into the stadium but another old team mate from 1948 Fr. Tom Parker who arrived in Australia by way of Korea and Japan.

Incidentally the famous photograph and accompanying story appeared in the Sunday Independent courtesy of well-known Galway journalist Jimmy Lydon who did a series of sports stories entitled "Famous Western Clubs" back in 1953/54.

TRIP TO ARAN ISLANDS

by Mick O'Sullivan

A conversation between Dunmore MacHales Bertie Coleman and our own Mick Dolan set the wheels in motion for a day's outing for both clubs and their supporters to the Aran Islands. Dunmore were county champions and holders of the Frank Fox cup for 1966 having disposed of the city side in one of the best football games ever seen in the county. So impressive were both teams that one of the national newspapers stated that "if this is the standard of football in Galway then Heaven help Meath in the All Ireland final". As it so transpired two weeks later Galway proved the newspapers correct and went on to win their third All Ireland in a row. On that all conquering side were three Fr. Griffins stalwarts Martin Newell, Liam Sammon and Colie McDonagh. Captain of the side for the second year running was Enda Colleran and it was fitting that he should accompany the party equipped with the Sam Maguire on the trip to Aran.

Bank Holiday Monday June 5th 1967 was the date selected and although the sun shone brilliantly on the Sunday rain came in from the Atlantic as the standard bearers of Dunmore and Fr. Griffins boarded the 'Galway Bay' for the historic trip to Aran. Over sixty Griffin players and supporters with a like group from Dunmore braved the choppy crossing and were greeted by a large gathering at Kilronan when Enda proudly displayed the Sam Maguire Cup. Having received a tumultuous welcome the visitors were ferried by side cars and horse traps to the playing pitch which is now the airfield.

Although short some of the more prominent players Griffins contributed to a very entertaining game which saw the County Champions win easily in the finish. Even the alertness of Johnny Geraghty in goal couldn't save the day for Griffins but as events transpired afterwards the defeat proved a blessing in disguise for the losers. One month later in the first round of the county championship they turned the tables on the same opposition and went on to capture their first senior championship in seventeen years.

The game on the island was watched by a big gathering of visitors and locals. For the latter it was certainly a historic occasion for one of their own kit and kin Michael Hernon who captained the Fr. Griffin side. On that day also Michael celebrated his 21st birthday and as he says himself "it was an occasion I will always treasure".

On the winning team Tommy Keenan who was top scorer with 4-1 to his credit, Seamus Leydon 0-3, Jack Mahon in the unusual role of a forward 1-1, Pat Donnellan 0-1, Andy O'Connor and Vincent Staunton were best. For Fr. Griffins Ray Niland 1-3, Sean Callaghan 0-2, Alfie Howley, Pat McSharry and Jim McMahon tried hardest.

Fr. Griffin in a different uniform as he prepares to ride his trusty motorcycle along the rugged and dusty roads of Connemara.

After the game the two parties adjourned to Tierney's Guest House where the revels continued far into the evening. Manager of Tierneys at the time was Paid McNamara who was closely associated with the St. Augustine side, so needless to say there were no complaints about the standard of meal served up or the service provided. After the dinner members from both teams entertained the appreciative audience to a ballad session the like of which had not been heard or seen on the island for several years. Willie Tyrrell and Finbar Staunton with help from Dinny O'Shea did the honours for Fr. Griffins while Tommy Keenan kept the Dunmore flag flying with some lively numbers. In between songs Sean Turke, President of Fr. Griffins received a great ovation when he presented a cup and two sets of hurleys to an island delegation for competition among the youth of Aran.

At the pier as everybody prepared for the homeward journey smoke signals went up when it was discovered that two of the Griffins contingent were missing. Apparently the "crac agus ceol" in Brid Ni Dalaigh's kitchen pub was so good that time passed by un-noticed. Eventually the missing two arrived on bicycles and when questioned about the mode of transport Alfie Howley gave a typical Irishman's answer – "Sure they were half borrowed, half taken lads". The other cyclist reporting back was Dunmore team captain John Keenan. John had also brought to Aran for the first and only time the Frank Fox memorial cup which is presented to the county senior football champions annually.

In contrast to the morning trip the journey home was a colourful and exciting one. No signs of seasickness this time. All were in joyous mood and the Clare hills vibrated to the strains of the "Old Galway Bay" and the "Banks of My Own Lovely Lee". Someone also remembered "Mary the Rose of Tralee" while others raised their glasses and toasted the "Rocks of Bawn". It was certainly an historic outing and one thoroughly enjoyed by all who made it. Recently I was speaking to an Aran Islander who remembered vividly the day "Sam" visited their shores and he was full of praise for the people who made it possible. "It was a day in a million" he remarked, "The first and last time we were ever so honoured". "Even though the McCarthy Cup has come to Galway on three occasions in recent times", he said, "no one has ever brought it to the Aran Islands".

SOME MEMORIES

By Pat McSharry

It was all so strange then. I stood outside the Imperial Hotel with the others but the faces and names were unfamiliar, the banter somewhat unreal. Soon we were heading for Corofin. I can remember little of the actual game but some of the details are vivid; the maroon jersey, the colour – that of the enemy – so different to the red and green; the names Heaney and Gilmore being often mentioned by the opposition and Dinny of course, even then a legend. It was St. Patrick's Day 1966 and I had played my first game for Fr. Griffins.

The Imperial was our traditional pre-match meeting place. On the days of the big matches we would be there on time, form into little knots and clusters, the jokes masking the desire to get going. It was not always like this. Early in the year perhaps or for relatively unimportant games players might be slow to arrive. There was the danger that the numbers might not reach the magic fifteen. Repeated head counts would reveal that serious measures would have to be taken. The snatch squads would be dispatched and finally sufficient players would be located. Very occasionally the opposite might occur. Too many players would turn up and we would realise that only half would get a game.

There was a West Board section in the county in those years and apart from the traditional rivalry with the local St. Michaels the strongest opposition was invariably Moycullen. There was no such thing as a small Moycullen man – their players even the corner forwards were big, powerful men. I can see them still – Clancys and Fahertys, Davorens and Gavins and Michael John soloing up the left wing. In the county in general we liked to play Dunmore best of all. And why not! They had Donnellans, Keenans and Leydens and Bertie on the line.

We trained in many places – in the Stadium of course and the Prairie, in the Army Grounds and in St. Mary's, in Fahy's field and the Hospital grounds and the Swamp, and we even trained under the lights at Cloonacauneen with the frost heavy on the ground. We had great indoor sessions in Mooneenageisha and St. Mary's. In the early years we liked to match ourselves with the fliers but as time passed on we learned new skills; anticipating the whistle for the sprints; making sure that the players on either side of one were not the youngest and fittest; keeping something in reserve for the final minutes. We loved the football part of training we would play forever on these endless summer evenings. There was friendship and fun and jokes. There was what we called the subs. training and ground football and no soloing.

The championship successes in the Seventies were, if anything, sweeter than the victory in '67. We were old men, we were told, we would be run off our feet, the League of Nations was finished. Our joy was

equalled by that of our regular supporters. We were happy to represent the county in the Connacht Inter club, to be invited to the 7-a-sides in Belfield and in Castlerea. There were few years left in us yet.

We would meet G.A.A. men from other counties and we would list with pride all our clubmen who had worn the county jersey. Sometimes they would ask "What's Sammon like as a club footballer?" I remember him as able to run forever, never beaten, impossible to mark. With Sammon on our team we were a match for anyone. He was the best of them all.

Our club meetings were generally held in The American Hotel. The same faces were always there - Paddy and Jimmy, Seamus and Mick Dolan, Sullivan and the other Higgins, Con and Fr. Foy. The crowds were bigger for certain meetings, business would be dealt with quickly and there was a perceptible rise in tension as the main item on the agenda was reached. These were the meetings when the draw for All-Ireland tickets would take place. Could everybody there be a paid-up member? Not many tickets this year, and always it seemed a Dunleavy or a McCaffrey would be first out of the hat. Even if one were unsuccessful in the draw there were still other possibilities. Paddy could somehow conjure up a ticket or Seamus might be able to get you one.

There are other memories too; 7-a-sides in Belfield and Castlerea, in Shrule and of course Kilmaine; quizzes with Michael and Sean, Kevin and Finbar; speeches we would make up in training commiserating with the losers and wishing them well; the spirit of comradeship among the backs in particular; Christy inviting opposing forwards to join him for discussions in the square; the return trip from Ballina with Willie Tyrell referring to the sad fate of the Killala lads; the youthful enthusiasm of the McGowans and Gerry Kelly; the commitment of Mick Dolan; the Annual Social so well organised by Mick Sullivan; the men who were young with me.

And still on Sunday afternoons in Summer we smell the newly mown Stadium and the years slip away and we are young again. We listen to the advice and we run onto the pitch and we take our places. The sun is shining and we will never grow old.

UNDER AGE FOOTBALL FROM 1973 TO 1978

By Michael Ryan

Juvenile football in Fr. Griffins was in a very healthy state in the 1970's. There were a number of reasons for this but the two most important factors were; (a) a seemingly endless supply of alecadoos who were always available to give a hand and (b) a constant supply of footballers from the City leagues.

People such as Mick Dolan, Paddy Higgins, Tom Higgins, Seamus Cox, Michael Monaghan, Fr. Foy, Pat Drummond, Jimmy Kilroy, Sean Turke and Pat McSharry seemed to be ever present at matches throughout this period. There was never a shortage of transport or of personnel to assist the referee at matches.

The City Leagues were started in Galway in the 1950's and continued through the 1960's and into the 1970's. At the end of the 60s the city was divided into nine areas and each area had a team; Mervue, Renmore, Ninety-Eights (which incorporated Woodquay, Bohermore, College Road, Lough Atalia, Eyre Square and the Docks), Western Stars (which incorporated the city centre and the West as far as Nile Lodge), Father Lally's (Shantalla), St. Anthony's (Newcastle), St. Nicholas' (the Claddagh), St. Kieran's (Salthill) and St. Joseph's Industrial School in Lower Salthill. Traditionally with the exception of St. Joseph's a Patrician Brother would take charge of each area and manage the football teams from that area. In 1967/68 Br. Justin Madden arrived in Galway and took charge of the Western Stars area which eventually incorporated the St. Nicholas' area. He started off with an under-12 team in 1969 which won the City League in that year and the same team subsequently won the under 14 (1971), under-16 (1972-73) and under-18 (1974) city leagues. This team formed part of the nucleus of subsequent Fr. Griffin juvenile teams and included such names as Michael Murphy, Peter Mernagh, Michael Walsh, Mike Ryan, Paul Fallon and Pat O'Connor.

Ninety-Eights were the beaten under-16 finalists in 1973 and included such names as Pat Elwood, Tom Richardson, Eddie Ward, Peter Duggan, Pat Walsh and Gerard O'Reilly all of whom went on to play with Fr. Griffins.

Traditionally Ninety-Eights and Renmore players would go on to play juvenile football with Fr. Griffins. Footballers from the West and St. Nicholas' traditionally played with St. Michaels from that Club's foundation. However, Br. Justin became associated with the Fr. Griffin club and as a result of his influence nearly all the Western Stars/St. Nicholas' players subsequently played for a few years at least for Fr. Griffins. As a result Fr. Griffins had very strong juvenile teams in the beginning of the 1970's. However due to various different

circumstances they failed to win a county championship at that level during that period.

The 1973 juvenile team was particularly strong and won the westboard championship, having beaten every team by cricket scores. The result of the Westboard final against Michael Breathnach's was 8-12 to 0-3. No team had scored a goal against Fr. Griffins in the westboard championship and in an earlier round against Salthill such was the dominance of the Fr. Griffins team that one of the Fr. Griffins players towards the end of the match, scored a point for Salthill amid much laughter. That team beat Gort in the county semi-final by another cricket score but Gort did manage to score one goal. Unfortunately however the team lost the county final by one point in Athenry to a Tommy Larkin's team which included a number of suspiciously mature looking players. Michael Murphy, the Fr. Griffins centre-half-forward hit the crossbar twice in the dying minutes of the game and just before the final whistle with the Tommy Larkin's goalkeeper off his line and the backs caught flat-footed, the ball whilst rolling into the Tommy Larkin's net, got stuck in the mud and the Fr. Griffins corner forward who was running in after it slipped as he was about to kick the ball. The team that day was Michael Kelly, Micheal Walsh, Tom Richardson, Larry O'Sullivan, Eddie Ward, Pat Elwood, Peter Duggan, Peter Mernagh, Mike Ryan (capt.), John Coll, Michael Murphy, John Flannery, Pat Walsh, Tom Naughton and Gerard O'Reilly. Paul Fallon came on as a substitute during the course of the match.

Interestingly Larry O'Sullivan the corner-back was a negro and one of the forwards managed to conceal the fact that he was actually over age for the entire season until the night of the county final.

A number of this juvenile team played in the 1974 Fr. Griffins under-21 team which got to the Westport Final and was beaten by Oughterard in a very good match at Pearse Stadium. It was Oughterard's first ever under-age trophy and they subsequently went on to win the County final. The Fr. Griffins team on that day lined up outside the dressing room tunnel and clapped the Oughterard team off the field after they had won the cup. The under-21 team included Mike Kelly, Pat O'Brien, Pat Ward, Pat Elwood, Mike Ryan, Gerry Kelly, Hubert Deane, Joe Keating and brothers Rory, Ciaran and McDara Woodman.

Great things were expected from the 1975 Griffins minor team which would essentially be made up of the 1973 juvenile team together with whatever new members the Club would have acquired in the meantime. However, a most unusual sequence of events happened in the Spring of 1975. It transpired that the Griffins minor team had been beaten early in the championship in 1974 and other than those players involved in

the under-21 championship and with the junior and senior teams in Fr. Griffins other players would have had absolutely no contact with the club from early Summer until they would have again been contacted at the beginning of the following season. This indeed was one of the problems the Club had in dealing with underage players. It appears however that a member of the Salthill club called on a number of Fr. Griffins players in the Spring of 1975 and persuaded the players that Fr. Griffins were giving up under-age football and were concentrating on senior football only. He suggested that those players should 'sign-up' for the Salthill Club. Numerous people took the mentor at his word and signed transfer forms. A few played at least one match for Salthill before the transfers were dealt with. Luckily the matter came to the attention of the Fr. Griffins club before the date of the West Board meeting which would have dealt with the transfers. All the players involved were contacted and signed letters to the effect that they had been misled. These letters were produced at the West Board meeting and to say the least the matter caused a few raised eyebrows. The players who had played for Salthill had to have this situation regularized. However a number of the players involved subsequently felt the whole thing was a bit of a sham and did not play for Fr. Griffins that year and many of them who probably were traditionally St. Michael's players in the first instance returned to St. Michael's in that and subsequent years. In any event the Fr. Griffins minor team was beaten in the West Board final by the same Michael Breathnach's team which it had beaten by a cricket score in 1973.

The nucleus of that team with the addition of new and younger players like Frank Brady, Kieran Smith, Andrew Heffernan, Peter McCormack, Paddy Keogh, Ray Hughes, Dermot Collins and Tom Ahern were again very prominent in the 1978 under-21 championship. At this stage the Divisional Board Championships had been done away with and the championship was run on a league basis initially. Fr. Griffins qualified from their section and eventually got to the county final. The semi-final against Ballinasloe was memorable in that it went to a second replay and provided some extremely entertaining football in Tuam stadium. Griffins eventually won the match by a point but the following Sunday they were beaten by Corofin in the final. Two contributing factors to that defeat were the facts that Tom Ahern, the huge Fr. Griffin full-back got injured very early on in the game and midfielder Kieran Smith got sent off. Tom Ahern's kick-out always went into the other half of the pitch. In the course of the match Corofin got two goals as a result of back kick-outs. The Fr. Griffins team on that day was Spanner Walsh, Andrew Heffernan, Tom Ahern, Twin Connolly, Paddy Keogh, Ray Hughes, Mike Ryan, Frank Brady,

Kieran Smith, Peter McCormack, Dermot Collins, Stephen Ruane, Matt Ruane, Pat Elwood (capt.) and Gerard O'Reilly.

Kathleen Hennelly whose many fine photographs were used in telling the story of Fr. Griffins murder. Kathleen is the daughter of the Editor.

MICK DOLAN – MOTIVATOR SUPREME

The present Chairman of Fr. Griffins is Mick Dolan, a member of a family steeped in Gaelic games and traditions. His brother Gerry was goalkeeper on that great Roscommon team that almost brought a Senior All-Ireland title to the county in 1946. Another brother Sean was one of the guiding lights behind St. Kiaran's, the forerunner to the present Salthill club, while Brian, now in Canada, wore the Griffin's colours during his sojourn in Galway. Another brother Paddy was a member of the UCG team of the late forties that had many stirring duels with Griffins.

Mick learned his football in the famous Roscommon nursery, the C.B.S. or the Brothers as they are commonly called. While working in Dublin he figured prominently with a few metropolitan clubs but is best remembered for the service he rendered to that very popular club Westerns.

In 1963 he was transferred to Galway and almost immediately became involved with Fr. Griffins. A glutton for work Mick believes in action and not words and he has never asked anyone to take on a task he wouldn't undertake himself. A great motivator his priority has been very much with the youth and over the years he has managed and counselled several players in the Minor and Under-21 age groups. He was also a promoter of Scor and through his efforts Fr. Griffins have won many titles in that area. He was secretary of Pearse Stadium for a number of years and was a hard-working member of that special body formed to raise capital to finance that committee. His ambition at the moment is to bring Fr. Griffins back to its former place of glory and if he is assured a full commitment and the necessary hard work that goes with it I can see him doing just that.

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Congratulations to Fr. Griffins on their 40 years history

PADDY HIGGINS – A MAN OF FEW EQUALS

When asked by the editor to pen a few lines about Paddy Higgins I hesitated and wondered how many pages I could fill that would do justice to the man who has contributed so much to the club he joined way back in 1948. A native of Annagh, Ballyglunin his first taste of championship success came in 1946 when he won a senior county medal with his home club Corofin. He was attached to the clerical staff of Bord na Mona in Newbridge Co. Kildare when news reached him in 1948 that a new football club called Fr. Griffins was being formed in Galway City. In a short time he would be transferred by his employers to that part of his native county so the scouts had little difficulty in persuading him to sign on the dotted line.

The rest is history and Paddy helped in no small way to bring three County championships on the trot to Fr. Griffins. A forward of no mean ability his concentration was always on football and his lightening speed and uncanny anticipation caused many a headache for the defender who tried to curb his skills. His ability as a first class attacker did not escape the attention of the county selectors and he wore the maroon of Galway with distinction on a number of occasions.

It is however as a legislator that Paddy Higgins has contributed so much to the welfare and success of the Fr. Griffin club. When Mick Lynch retired as Secretary in 1949 he took on that onerous job and except for one year as Chairman in 1962 he filled that position with distinction until 1969. On handing over the reins that year to Pat McSharry he was immediately nominated for the position of Treasurer which he duly accepted and which he has handled so capably over the past twenty years.

When Fr. Griffins acquired the tenancy of Pearse Stadium the elected committee of that body requested Paddy to handle their financial affairs. Never one to refuse he spearheaded the group who took on the demanding task of raising money to clear the debt that threatened the demise of the Salthill pitch. We all know how successful and thankless that job was.

When Coisde na nOg was founded in 1957 to cater for the needs of the youth of the city Paddy was one of many Fr. Griffins members who became involved in that board. He was treasurer for many years and helped to organise teams in his own area College Road. At that time St. Augustines, the youth section of Fr. Griffins also came to prominence and Paddy spared no effort in training them to win many titles.

Due to his hard work as financial controller the present state of our club can be described as very healthy and as a colleague recently put it – without Paddy Higgins and a few others there would be no Fr. Griffins.

SEAMUS COX

In their 40 years history Fr. Griffins have had many outstanding and long serving club officers who gave freely of themselves. People like Paddy Higgins, Mick Dolan, Mick Sullivan, Jimmy Kilroy and Seamus Cox readily spring to mind. Of that quintet Seamus Cox is the only one I have never worked with. Seamus arrived in the club in the early sixties, a few years after my departure. I did a prodigal son act and returned to the fold early in 1985 and a short time later Seamus took leave of absence.

During his 20 years with the club Seamus was to the forefront in all club activities, showing by action, not words how the job should be done. He was mainly responsible for the erection of the memorial to our dead comrades in Kilrickle, and the unveiling of the plaque to the memory of Fr. Griffin at No. 2 Montpelier Terrace, Sea Road. The work he did for the Pearse Stadium committee, and the improvements carried out by this voluntary committee can never be repaid by the G.A.A.

Seamus Cox was an outstanding hurler with Fr. Tom Burkes before joining Fr. Griffins. He served as Chairman of the Fr. Griffins club for many years, and was also Vice-Chairman of the Galway Football Board. Seamus was also a Galway Football Selector when football was at its brightest and best. During his time with Griffins he took a particular interest in the juvenile section of the club.

While Seamus Cox has taken a breather from the day-to-day running of Fr. Griffins he still retains a great interest in club affairs and regularly attends club functions and anniversaries.

FR. TONY HOADE

Just as this club history was finished Fr. Tony Hoade paid a brief visit home and the Fr. Griffin Club arranged a little 'do' in his honour. This enjoyable function was held in the Western Hotel, Prospect Hill which is owned by former player Joe Keville and his wife Bernie. Present on the night was the great Sean Purcell a legend in his own lifetime and Tony's friend Tuam businessman Martin Tyrrell and his wife. Great games from the past were re-played again and again and the highlight of the night was the presentation made to Fr. Tony on behalf of his friends in the club by Chairman Mick Dolan.

Tony Hoade is a very modest person and not given to speaking about himself. However speaking to his Australian friend Ian Howell who accompanied him on this trip and getting a feedback from Irish people who spent some time in Australia I learned some interesting facts about Tony. As a young priest in the diocese of Lismore in N.S.W. he set about raising funds through Bingo and other means and almost

single-handed he built a church, school and a home for the elderly. On the sporting front he was patron of 'The Seagulls' rugby league club for 20 years. 'The Seagulls' is the oldest rugby league club in northern N.S.W. and as a token of their esteem he was presented with the club's No. 11 jersey worn with distinction by a great prop forward named Phil Hockin who is now a detective with the N.S.W. police force. Some years ago a prominent Australian politician on a visit to Ireland made it his business to visit Galway to look up the relatives of his good friend Fr. Tony Hoade. Today that politician is the Australian High Commissioner in London and his name is Doug McClelland. We in the Fr. Griffins Club are justly proud of our former team mate and friend who is truly a great ambassador for his church and the Irish people in general.

Editor.

THE TERRIBLE TWINS SEAN PURCELL AND MICK DOWLING (WITH APOLOGIES TO FRANK STOCKWELL)

It is an accepted fact that Sean Purcell is the greatest ever Galway footballer. A few years ago a national poll was conducted by the Sunday Independent to select the best gaelic football team of all time and Sean headed the poll as Ireland's Greatest Ever Centre Half Forward. However peerless Purcell shrugs off all this glory bit and with a great sense of humour likes nothing better than to tell a story against himself. One such story that he tells – wait for it – is the time, the only time in his illustrious career, that he was taken off a Galway Senior Team. As Sean tells it it happened like this. Galway were playing Kerry in a National league game in Tralee in October 1948 and the very young Purcell had his hands full with Kerry stalwart Jackie Lyne. John Dunne in his wisdom communicated to Sean that it was time to take an early shower and he was replaced by none other than Mick Dowling. As mentioned elsewhere in this book Mick Dowling won county senior championship medals in Kerry, Dublin and Galway and he also played inter-County football for the aforementioned counties. However Mick will be the first to admit that his appearances at inter-county level were limited and not very fruitful, winning no honours and he certainly never won an All-Ireland medal. Yet he has something as good if not better than an All-Ireland medal, he has the distinction of being the only footballer ever to have replaced the great Sean Purcell in a senior inter-county game. Both men get a great kick out of the telling of this story. They also have much in common, a great sense of humour and loyalty to their respective clubs Tuam Stars and Fr. Griffins for more than forty years.

Rev. Fr. Michael Griffin C.C., St. Josephs, born Gurteen 18th September, 1892, died Galway 15th November, 1920.

A WORD ABOUT THE EDITOR

by Mick O'Sullivan

Considering his stature the editor of this history was one of the best forwards ever to don a Fr. Griffin jersey. A product of the 'Old Mon' Paddy O'Brien's football ability was kindled in that school in 1942 when he captained the under-15 team of that year. He came to the notice of the County Minor selectors in 1945 and again represented the county in the same grade in 1946 going under to Mayo in the Connacht Final. On that winning side was a young lad who was destined to become a household name afterwards - the one and only Padraic Carney known later as the 'Flying Doctor'. At the time Paddy was playing at full-back for his club Liam Mellows but he always felt he wanted to be a forward. Assisting Erin's Hope, another city team, was his good friend and colleague in the County Minor side Austin Roche. When Fr. Griffins was founded in 1948 Austin was one of the first to join their ranks and through his influence Paddy followed suit. Immediately he made his impact as a full forward and had some stirring tussles and good results with such great full backs as Eddie Condon of the Army, Mick Costello (U.C.G.) and Mattie Burke (Annaghdown). He collected his first county medal in 1948 and repeated the process again in 1949. Unfortunately the call of emigration denied him his third medal in a row in 1950 when he took the boat to London. In his adopted city Paddy wasn't idle and he made the London team of that year.

The longing for home and Fr. Griffins had him back again in Galway in 1951 and for the next two years he gave unstinted service to his old club winning a County League medal in 1953. This was also the year that sadly brought to an end the promising future of a great prospect. In August Paddy sustained a serious knee injury in a seven-a-side tournament which left him out of football for the whole of 1954. Following two operations for cartilage trouble he made a brief comeback against Clonbur in 1955 but had to retire without finishing the game.

Apart from wearing the County Minor jersey Paddy O'Brien also figured prominently on the County Junior sides of 1949, '52 and '53 and on a few occasions he also assisted the Senior Team in League and Tournament outings. Having been born and reared in one of the traditional hurling areas of the City one would assume that his first love would be the small ball game. He hesitated for a moment when I put that question to him and to my surprise informed me that he did hurl a bit for Liam Mellows. He was called for a Minor County trial in 1946 but due to a mix up in transport arrangements he never made that final trial.

Following his retirement from football in 1955 Paddy drifted away from Fr. Griffins but as a result of a casual conversation one day with an old club mate he rejoined his old club in 1985. Since then he has been the club's very capable P.R.O. and took on the onerous task last year of editing the First Forty Years of Fr. Griffins.

The house in Gurteen, birthplace of Fr. Griffin.

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FR. TOM PARKER – THE MAN – THE PRIEST

By Paddy O'Brien

Tom Parker, a young man from Rosemount, Co. Westmeath was ordained to the priesthood in the summer of 1948 when he was 25 years old. Shortly after his ordination he arrived in Galway on loan to the diocese. One of the first people he met on arrival was an old friend from Westmeath Sean Kindillon, a founder member of the Fr. Griffins club. Sean lost no time in bringing along Fr. Parker to the next meeting and he immediately became immersed in club affairs. Fr. Parker who loved gaelic football was also a very good player but unfortunately his appearances with the team were limited because the Bishops at that time did not allow priests to take part in competitive games. However he did manage to play occasionally in places like Currandulla, Headford and Tuam and he trained regularly with the team in South Park (The Swamp).

I have one abiding memory of Fr. Parker which will remain with me for the rest of my life. We always trained on Thursday afternoons which was known at that time as the 'Shop Boy's half day'. One Thursday in May 1949 I was cycling down Prospect Hill with my football gear tied to the handlebars and the ball tucked under my arm (I was ball custodian at the time) when I almost collided with Fr. Parker who was cycling up Prospect Hill on a high framed second-hand bike. He had a saddle bag on this bicycle and neatly tucked away in this saddle bag was his football jersey, boots, stockings and togs. We both hopped off our bikes for a brief chat and I casually mentioned that he was going the wrong way to South Park and he then said something that I will never forget. He told me that an old lady from Bohermore was not long for this world and she had already received the Last Rites but he was now calling up to see her, to sit with her for a while and console her. Then getting on his bike he waved good-bye and said "Tell the lads I'll be down later". I had witnessed something very unique. I felt I had been in the presence of a very special person. Here we had a young man who was a priest going about his priestly duties, yet the little boy in that man, in that priest, brought along his football boots to spend a little time kicking football with his young companions after administering to the old and the dying. That was Fr. Parker who was a man, a priest and a boy all in one.

In 1950 Fr. Parker left for the missions in Korea and with 13 other Irish priests stayed in a seaport town called Mokpo situated on the South West Coast of South Korea. On the 25th June 1950 the communist North Koreans invaded the anti-communist South and meeting little opposition from Syngman Rhee's shattered army soon over-ran the country. As the communist army approached Mokpo, the American

Vice-Council arrived by jeep and requested the missionaries to evacuate their quarters immediately. After hurriedly packing a few things the Irish priests were taken and placed aboard a South Korean gun boat and sailed to Pusan. They arrived in Pusan on the 19th July and this American controlled port was packed with refugees fleeing the war zone. The Irish priests with some other refugees were accommodated in a small convent, so crowded that they had to sleep on the floors. Fr. Parker was lucky, he found an old car seat and slept on this seat for some weeks. On the 1st August they were taken from Pusan to Yokohama in Japan and later still to Tokyo. Fr. Parker stayed for some time in Japan before going to the U.S.A.

A friend of mine attended a function in Boston some years ago and met an Irish priest there. The priest on hearing he was from Galway mentioned that he was a curate in St. Patrick's in 1948 and 1949 and that he had played football with Fr. Griffins. I need hardly tell you that that priest was Fr. Tom Parker, the same Fr. Parker I had encountered in Prospect Hill in May 1949 going about his priestly duties, administering to the dying with a pair of football boots in his saddle bag. As I pen these words I feel honoured to have been a friend and team mate of Fr. Tom Parker.

St. Mary's College, Galway, where Fr. Griffin addressed a meeting of the Children of Mary just hours before his murder.

Photo: K. Hennelly.

THE BINGO BRIGADE

by Mick O'Sullivan

Finance is an important factor in the successful running of any organisation and indeed the Fr. Griffins club is no exception. In the early days Ceilis which were regularly held in the Astaire Ballroom and later in the famous Hangar were a popular source of revenue. In later years raffles, draws and flag days helped to defray club expenses. You will read elsewhere in this book an account of the part the Athenry Players played in helping the Fr. Griffin coffers. Today Bingo is the club's sole means of financial support. The venue is the 'Silver Dollar', Salthill and every Sunday night a small band of enthusiastic workers led by hard working chairman Mick Dolan, Jim Kilroy, Mick O'Sullivan and Paddy Higgins, help to keep the wheels in motion. They have a willing back-up team in Pat Drummond and John Melody and here are two staunch club members who never seek the limelight.

Pat joined Fr. Griffins in 1959 and was appointed secretary of the under age section known as St. Augustines. In later years he became the club's West Board and Co. Football Board representative, positions he filled with distinction and dedication. Pat is a also a well known knight of the whistle and regularly referees games in the western area and for the Inter Firm board.

Quiet spoken John Melody has a long association with Griffins 'going back years' as he modestly proclaims. His ready smile and quick wit helps to keep the 'punters' happy as he sells bingo books by the score every week. There are no accolades or awards for people like John, nevertheless their contributions are invaluable and no organisation could survive without them. The Bingo Brigade is not an all male show and credit to Dorothy, Peg and Carmel for adding a female touch to the proceedings.

THE ATHENRY CONNECTION

by Mick O'Sullivan

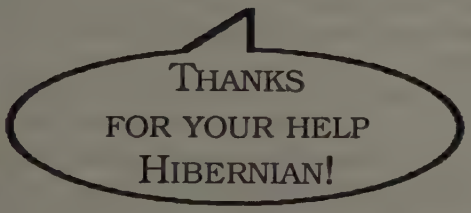
For a number of years Willie Tyrrell of Palmyra Park was Vice President of Fr. Griffins and at the same time he looked after the transport side of the club. Being a taxi man his services were often in demand and needless to say in those days of the mid and late fifties cash was hard to come by. Fr. Griffins like most other clubs depended on raffles, flag days and ceilis to raise capital. Very often the response wasn't encouraging and Willie had to wait long periods to have his account settled. Being a patient man and a loyal club member he accepted what he got and left the rest in God's hands.

At a general meeting of the club early in February 1960 the question of finance was once again highlighted. Willie suggested bringing the Athenry Players (a drama group) to Galway to raise funds. They were kings of the stage at that time and had won numerous awards and citations all over the country with John B. Keane's controversial play 'Sive'. Willie's proposal was adopted and being from that part of the county himself he was given a free hand to negotiate terms and make the necessary arrangements with the group.

It was only then his problems started; when he tried to book a hall in Galway for the event he was flatly refused by all and sundry. Eyebrows were raised when the word 'Sive' was mentioned, they would have nothing to do with such a play. How times have changed in thirty years. Willie was determined however and eventually Noel Finan of Seapoint Ballroom gave him the nod.

A lot of hard work went into the preparing of the stage and sets but all club members rose magnificently to the challenge. All modes of conveyance including Cunniss' horse and dray were used to transport seating from various parts of the city to seapoint. Willing and tired bodies dragged chairs and stools up two flights of stairs to the ballroom and when the show finished two days later they dragged them down again to ground level. No one complained, it was that kind of streamlined operation. Handbills were printed advertising the dates and admission prices. They were stuffed through every letter box in the city by enthusiastic workers. Sive was staged on Friday and Saturday March 4th and 5th 1960 in Seapoint ballroom and admission prices were 4/= and 2/6. The presentation on both nights was a huge success and enthusiastic crowds thronged the ballroom each night. They were rewarded with tremendous acting from Kitty Lardner, Joan Murphy, Rose Ruane, Christy Howley, Mick Fahy, Declan Whelehan, Tom Armstrong, Noel O'Grady and Mickey Hession. A word of praise also for producer Tom Reilly.

The coffers of the Fr. Griffin Club benefitted greatly from the venture which led to many appearances in the years that followed from the same group. Galway audiences later had the pleasure of seeing 'Lovers Meeting', 'Home is the Hero', Juno and the Paycock', 'The Plough and the Stars' and many others performed by the same group. But on reflection, great as all those were, the one that really hit the jackpot was 'Sive'.



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A TRIBUTE TO FR. GRIFFIN

Noticing that several footballers arriving in Galway from outside counties had no outlet for their talents, a group of G.A.A. enthusiasts got together in early 1948 and their meeting resulted in the founding of the Fr. Griffin Club.

In the intervening years the club's contribution to Galway football has been on a par with its own development and success including, of course, the numerous All-Ireland Senior Football medals won by its members with Galway and other counties. Virtually every competition open to it has been won at one time or another by the club and, of course, the most remarkable and talked about feature has been the winning of the county S.F. championship at the first attempt and its retention for the two years following.

The verses below are offered as a small tribute to the very many people, who in their different ways, helped to build the Fr. Griffin Club into the strong G.A.A. unit that it is to-day and we hope it will continue to be in the years ahead.

For my part I have many links with club members for over twenty years, especially through Inter-Firm. Numerous Griffins people were involved with city firms in our competitions as players, officers, referees, etc., names like Pat Drummond, Mick Carolan, Finbar Staunton (R.I.P.), Matthew Deane, Nicholas O'Connor, Jim McMahon, Gerry O'Mahoney, Jim Kilroy and Sean Lawless (R.I.P.), to mention just a few.

This fine book will generate further goodwill towards the club and its members, all of whom deserve sincere congratulations on a splendid production.

Fr. Griffin's Club

(Air: Glen Swilly)

(1)

In a little spot called Gurteen in eighteen-ninty-three,
Michael Griffin he was born, a saintly priest to be,
Then after ordination and a spell in County Clare,
He came to Rahoon parish, of tragedy unaware.

(2)

In the year of ninteen-twenty, on a bleak November night,
He was lured by British soldiers to a cold and lonely site,
And barely six days later, in a bog by Bearna Road,
Father Michael's lifeless body was found where blood had flowed.

(3)

By Corrib's storied waters in the Spring of forty-eight
A group of G.A.A. men arranged a special date,
They founded Father Griffin's Club on that historic night,
And nailed its colours to the mast, belov'd maroon and white.

(4)

Johnny Cotter was first president with John Davey in the chair,
Assisted by Steve Lally, Sean Kindillon too was there,
Mick Lynch was later secretary with treasurer Jimmy Ward
And then came Paddy Higgins who deserves a grand reward.

(5)

On playing fields in forty-eight the team won early fame,
And the county senior title to Galway Bay it came,
In forty-nine and fifty, the treble was complete,
A remarkable achievement, indeed a unique feat.

(6)

In '67 and '70, '72 and '75,
Frank Fox's own memorial cup in Galway did arrive.
Seven great occasions, so memorable to recall,
God bless the boys who make them, three cheers for one and all.

(7)

Call out the names of captains in those seven golden years;
Jimmy Ward and Jim McMahon as leaders have no peers,
Emmet Farrell from Kilconnell, Tom Sands of Ballygar,
We'll remember you forever, your deeds shine like a star.

(8)

Just three more names I'll mention, they're gems in Griffins crown;
Marty Newell, Colie McDonagh, Liam Sammon of renown,
They served up glorious football and gave the Club their all,
We thank them with their colleagues and their grand displays recall.

(9)

And as the nineties dawn on us, we have great men at the top;
Our president Mick Dowling, once a player few could stop;
The Chairman's from Roscommon, Michael Dolan is his name,
And Mick Lafferty, our secretary from Castlefin he came.

(10)

Paddy Higgins is still treasurer, no bob he'll overlook!
and Pat O'Brien the P.R.O. who edits this fine book,
To all who helped to make the Club and guide it to this day,
We offer Mile Buiochas, from Griffin's G.A.A.

Criostoir Mac Gearailt, C.I.E. 12.1.90.

The house at No. 2 Mountpelier Tce., Sea Road, from which Fr. Griffin was lured to his murder on the night of Sunday, 14th November, 1920.

Photo: K. Hennelly.

SEAN TURKE

By P. Higgins

Sean Turke was born in College Road, Galway on May 2nd 1893 and died there on December 22nd 1979. Except for a period (1926/1932) when he was in the U.S.A., he resided for a life-time in his beloved Galway.

He was a revered and respected citizen, with a great love of country, of youth and of Gaelic games, but above all, he had a great love of God. The writer recalls an incident just a week before his death. On calling to take him to our Club's Annual Social (which he always attended except for some very grave reason), Sean explained that he had not felt well enough that morning to attend mass and on that account he would have to forego the social - no mass, no social. On another occasion, a few years before his death, when reminded to apply for his Five-year Final G.A.A. tickets Sean said - "I won't apply this time. I might be flying in the eyes of God". He was thinking and preparing for a more definite and important final.

His love of country saw him join the volunteers in 1917. He was "on the run" from 1920 until the truce in 1923. He held the rank of Commandant of the Western Battalion and in this capacity took over Lenaboy Castle as the Battalion Headquarters when it was vacated by the Auxiliaries. Sean also marched the advance troops into Renmore Barracks and took it over from the English officers. It is significant that those officers saw fit to complement Sean and his men on being so well drilled. After the truce he took the Republican side.

With peace restored, Sean became very interested in rowing and he won many honours with the Commercial Rowing club from 1923, until he emigrated in 1926.

On his return to Ireland in 1932 his love for country found its outlet in his great love of Gaelic games. Coming from College Road, an area steeped in hurling tradition, it was only natural that hurling was his first love. He often reminded those less versed in G.A.A. records that College Road Stars had won the Senior Galway Hurling Championship in 1892 and also in 1893, the year of his birth. He recalled seeing a hurling match in the Sportsground, Galway, with the extra side-posts, where points were scored. Side posts were abandoned in 1909.

He was an officer of Liam Mellows Hurling Club since its foundation in 1934, holding the posts of Secretary, Treasurer and Chairman, culminating in his election as Life President of the club about 1970. About the same time he was also elected Life President of the Fr. Griffin club. He was a mine of information and could recall the

line-outs and scorers in matches he had attended over many years. He also remembered the player or players who, in his opinion, "lost the match" and would not hesitate to name them. Sean was a great believer in the youth and those of us who were close to him were very familiar with his many note-books, containing information on every young lad in the area - full name, address, father's name, mother's maiden name, where born and date of birth. All this was required for official registration for juvenile competitions. He registered them all good and bad. His reason was "just in case - we might be stuck some time". For over forty years he cajoled and urged young boys and men to play Gaelic games and many a senior player benefitted later from his keen and expert advice.

He is affectionately remembered for what he was - a great Irish man, with the same high ideals as Liam Mellows and Fr. Griffin. It was appropriate then that at the time of his death he was Life President of the two clubs, perpetuating the memory of those two patriots.

Ar dheis De go raibh a Anam.

Memorial erected to Fr. Griffin. It was at this spot in Barna that his body was found buried in a shallow grave on Saturday, 20th November, 1920.

Photo: K. Hennelly.

NED WALSH R.I.P.

By Paddy Higgins

No account of the Pearse Stadium should be recorded without reference to that staunch G.A.A. man Ned Walsh. Son of Micheal Breathnach who was murdered in 1920 for his part in the fight for Irish freedom, Ned spent most of his life running the family business in the "Old Malt", High Street, Galway. His premises could be described as the G.A.A. Headquarters in Galway and was always available for meetings and gatherings related to G.A.A. affairs.

For many years he was chairman of the West Galway G.A.A. Board as well as the Liam Mellows Hurling club. He was a foundation member and on the original committee of the Pearse Stadium, formed in 1953, and was still an active committee member at the time of his death on 29th August 1981.

Every spare moment he had was spent in the Pearse Stadium. He organised for the big matches and had just the same interest and enthusiasm for fixtures in the under-age grades. It was not unusual for Ned, during the Summer months, to be present at four matches in the Pearse Stadium on a Sunday when the occasion arose. During his latter years, when he had retired from work, he was a familiar figure every day in the Stadium, always accompanied by that faithful companion "Firpo" his dog. Those of us who knew him well and who wanted him always checked at the Pearse Stadium first before calling to his home. Nine times out of ten it saved time. He mowed the grass, lined the pitch and did all kinds of repair work. For anything he could not do himself, he always knew some friend with the necessary skill. He appeared to always carry a hammer and a pocketful of nails, just in case.

Ned was known to all and sundry for his total commitment to the Pearse Stadium and the remark was often made by his friends that he would be found dead there. How true this remark was to be. He died suddenly in the place he loved so well. He had just finished acting as an umpire at a club match and after locking the dressing rooms, he was called to his eternal reward as he left the pitch. Lying beside him was his faithful companion "Firpo".

Solas na flaitheas da anam.

FINBARR STAUNTON

Finbar Staunton came to work in Galway from Letterkenny in May 1963. Being a Corkman he was naturally interested in Gaelic games and in no time at all he was deeply involved with Fr. Griffins. Shortly after joining the club he was elected on the working committee and in later years he held the position of P.R.O.

Finbar was a great man to get a party going and at the club socials and get-togethers he never failed to give his rendering of his beloved 'Banks'. In May 1987 the Great Reaper called him home to join the other Griffins clubmen who are remembered each year in the Annual Mass celebrated in St. Joseph's Church.

JACK DIVILLY

Jack Divilly joined Fr. Griffins with his close friend Tom Higgins in the early fifties. Unlike his colleague he never participated in playing games but nevertheless he was a staunch supporter of the teams activities. When Griffins took over the responsibility of running Pearse Stadium his suggestions and advice were always invaluable and much appreciated. Following his death his wife Anne and son Peter donated the Jack Divilly Perpetual Cup to the club to be presented annually to the player of the year.

SEAN LAWLESS

Sean Lawless saw the light of day in the lovely village of Menlo which overlooks Lough Corrib. A great lover of the Irish language his devotion to gaelic games was infectious. He was secretary of Fr. Griffins in 1972 and '73 and followed this up with the post of P.R.O. in 1974 and '75. However he is best remembered for his great performances on the Scor question time teams that brought county and provincial titles to the club. At the time of his death he was secretary of the West G.P.C. Board and was also G.A.A. correspondent for the 'New Observer'.

BRENDAN COFFEY
A Man for all Seasons

One of the most ardent supporters of Gaelic Games and indeed of sport in general in Galway must be Brendan Coffey. Born in Dublin, the likeable Roches Stores employee spent his formative years in the care of the Heffernan family of the late Timree Hotel. This was a famous hostelry in the mid-sixties for members of the Fr. Griffin Club and it was mostly through their influence that Brendan inherited a burning passion for Gaelic Games, particularly football. At an early age he travelled the length and breadth of Ireland supporting the Galway footballers and even to the present time one could meet him at venues as far apart as Killarney or Clones. Some years ago one of the highlights of a game between Galway and Kerry at Fitzgerald Stadium was the verbal duel between Brendan and his vis-a-vis with the Kerry team, Leo Griffin. Somebody described it as the clash of the afternoon and needless to say Brendan came out on top with a few points to spare.

Apart from sport Brendan has several other outlets and is more than generous with his time and energy in helping various works of charity. A fellow worker described him as "one who is always around wherever people congregate and one who is never shy to help a cause". You could describe him as "a man for all seasons".

Two years ago Brendan Coffey was presented with the Supporter of the Year award at the Annual Fr. Griffin's dinner. He treasures this memento dearly but really it was only a token of appreciation for one who has given so much joy to so many people.

INTER ALIA

Club Mass: One of the very important events on the Club's calendar year is the Annual Mass for Fr. Michael Griffin and deceased members of the club. It is celebrated in St. Joseph's church on the anniversary of the discovery of Fr. Griffin's body in a bog near Barna. It is gratifying to see so many members and their families present each year as well as the large number of relatives of deceased members who attend.

Trip to London: One of the big events of 1983 was the club's trip to London over the Easter weekend. A full compliment of players and officials left Dublin Airport on Good Friday returning on Easter Monday. During their stay in London the team had a successful outing against John Mitchell's winning a very interesting game by a comfortable margin.

Annual G.A.A. Congress Motion: Dublin monopolised the Annual G.A.A. Congress until a motion from the Fr. Griffin Club changed all that. The instigator and proposer of the change was former Mayo and Louth footballer Dan O'Neill who also assisted Fr. Griffins during his sojourn in Galway. Ever since the yearly get-together of delegates from all over Ireland has rotated amongst the provinces.

Did you know?

Frank Stockwell first played for Galway in 1945. He played in goal for the minor team beaten by Sligo in Roscommon. Paddy O' Brien was a sub on this team and got a brief run.

Oliver O'Rourke a former chairman of the club played for Rosemount the Westmeath county champions against Fr. Griffins in that ill-fated tournament that took place on Easter Sunday 1950. Later that evening 3 young men died in a terrible car crash at Kilrickle.

The legendary Bobby Beggs is an uncle of Henry O'Connor who has served Fr. Griffins so well for many years as a player, trainer and hard working officer.

A SALUTE TO THE BOYS IN GREEN AND THE BOYS IN BLUE

Fr. Griffins have had a long and fruitful association with the Garda Siochana and our Army friends in Renmore. Indeed you will find a number of guards amongst our foundation members, and every year since 1948 we have had members of that august body serving our club as players and officials. When Army found themselves unable to compete at team level they threw in their lot with Fr. Griffins. Both Griffins and our sister club Liam Mellowes have benefitted enormously from the contribution made by the great players from these two bodies. Fr. Griffins would be a poorer club by far without the input of the Army lads and the Gardai. We salute you.

GARDAI
P. Boyle
J. Buckley
D. Collins
J. Connolly
S. Connolly
E. Coughlan
M. Dowling
D. Fahey
C. Finnerty
M. Halpin
M. Hogan
B. Houlihan
P. Houlihan
P. Kelleher
J. Kilroy
F. Larkin
J. Leon
J. Lowney
C. Lucey
J. Malone
K. McDonagh
T. Morris
M. Muldoon
S. O'Rourke
D. O'Shea
T. O'Shea
O. Parnell
D. Quilty

GARDAI
C. Randles
A. Reidy
S. Reidy
D. Sands
T. Sands
P. Sweeney
T. Walsh

ARMY
T. Aherne
L. Brennan
S. Brophy
M. Byrne
A. Carolan
M. Carolan
J. Casey
P. Corcoran
B. Courtney
D. Flynn
B. Geraghty
V. Gilmore
M. Lafferty
J. Mahony
K. McDonnell
J. McMahon
G. Merrigan
F. Morrin
C. Naughton
J. Noone
M. O'Cualachain
E. Sheridan
J. Walsh
M. Winters
P. Winters
J. Young

St. Joseph's Church, Galway, where the body of Fr. Griffin lay in state in an open coffin before the High Alter, as thousands of people filed past in silent tribute to their beloved pastor.

Photo: K. Hennelly.

Best wishes from Sister Club

LIAM MELLOWES

Galway Senior Hurling Champions

1935, 1945, 1946, 1954, 1955, 1968, 1970

THE PEARSE STADIUM

By Paddy Higgins

While some individual members of the Fr. Griffin club were active with the Pearse Stadium Committee since its formation, it was in January 1973 that the club, as such, became involved. This involvement was in fact a "rescue operation".

At that time there was a debt in excess of £10,000 on the Stadium, facilities there were totally inadequate and heavy expenditure was inevitable on improvements, so as to bring the grounds up to reasonable standards. Approaches were made by the G.A.A. authorities to several clubs to become the management committee of the property and to take over all the assets and liabilities. After some persuasion, and despite reservations by some members, our club decided to accept the responsibility and appointed a committee which included a number of the old committee members who were anxious to help.

The committee set about the onerous undertaking and after several years of extremely hard work, by way of fund-raising and endless hours of voluntary labour, succeeded in clearing the debt, erecting a stand, resodding the surface of the pitch, purchasing the ground rent, replacing machinery, gates, doors, etc. Included in our fund-raising drive was the very original raffle for a house. Tickets were sold all over Ireland, England and the United States. It was hard work and we all heaved a sigh of relief when the raffle took place and a sizeable profit was realized. It was the forerunner of other raffles subsequently organised by other associations in Ireland offering houses as prizes.

From January 1973 to December 1983 our committee spent a total of £107,000 on the Pearse Stadium. Considered in conjunction with the voluntary labour involved, it was a major contribution by our club to the G.A.A. Subsequent events, however, showed that our efforts were not appreciated and once the "rescue operation" was complete it became obvious that our committee's plans for further development at the Stadium were being hampered. The support and backing it deserved (financial and otherwise) was not forthcoming. While we were the management committee of the Pearse Stadium, decisions in relation to it were being made and implemented without reference to us. To go into any further detail in this matter may be imprudent in this publication. Suffice it to say that at a meeting of the Pearse Stadium Committee in December 1983, it was unanimously decided that the entire committee resign and a letter of resignation was submitted on the 31st December 1983 detailing our reasons for taking this drastic action.

So ended our club involvement with the Pearse Stadium.

CLUBMAN OF THE YEAR
FR. TONY HOADE PERPETUAL CUP

1965	Con Cunnane
1966	Gabriel Nicholson
1967	Denis O'Shea
1968	Jim McMahon
1969	Eddie Dunne
1970	Emmett Farrell
1971	Liam Sammon
1972	Tom Sands
1973	Mick Dolan
1974	Paddy Higgins
1975	Jimmy Kilroy
1976	John McGinley
1977	Colie McDonagh
1978	Pat Elwood
1979	Seamus Cox
1980	Ned Walsh
1981	Tom Qualter
1982	Gerry Mahony
1983	Michael Carrolan
1984	Pat Niland
1985	Johnny Faherty
1986	Pat Sands
1987	Michael O'Sullivan
1988	Paddy O'Brien

TITLES WON BY FR. GRIFFINS AND JUVENILE WING ST. AUGUSTINES

Senior Co. Championship (7) 1948, 49, 50, 67, 70, 72, 75

Senior Co. League (1) 1953

Senior West Board Championship (6) 1964, 69, 70, 72, 73, 74

Senior West Board League (1) 1966

Senior Connacht Club Championship (2) 1970–71, 1972–73

Senior Connacht Club Championship (7-a-side) (1) 1974

Under-21 County Championship (1) 1971

Under-21 West Board Championship (1) 1971

Minor County Championship (2) 1961, 67

Minor West Board Championship (3) 1961, 62, 67

Minor West Board League (2) 1967, 69

Juvenile County Championship (2) 1959, 60

Juvenile West Board Championship (3) 1959, 60, 73

County Intermediate Losers Group 1982, 1983

Under-14 County League (B) 1984

Under-15 County Championship (7-a-side) 1985

Junior B League 1985

GALWAY FOOTBALL ROLL OF HONOUR
COURTESY TUAM HERALD – M.O.L.

Since the first completed championship in 1889 the Cup has been presented 93 times and the winners are as follows –

Tuam Stars (22) 1892, 93, 94, 95, 96, 08, 09, 11, 42, 43, 47, 52, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 62, 84, 88.

Ballinasloe (17) 1913, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 22, 23, 25, 28, 29, 39, 44, 45, 79, 80.

Dunmore McHales (15) 1889, 91, 1900, 02, 07, 10, 12, 53, 61, 63, 66, 68, 69, 73, 83.

Fr. Griffins (7) 1948, 49, 50, 67, 70, 72, 75

Mountbellew (4) 1964, 65, 74, 86

Annaghdown (4) 1931, 82, 85, 87

Athenry DeWets (3) 1903, 04, 06 U.C.G. (3) 1933, 34, 37

Corofin (3) 1932, 46, 77

Loughrea (2) 1897, 98

Wolfe Tones (2) 1936, 41

Army (Renmore) (2) 1940, 51

Milltown (2) 1971, 81 Killererin (2) 1976, 78

Caherlistrane (1) 1890

Oughterard (1) 1938

Tuam St. Jarlath's (1) 1905

Tuam Krugers (1) 1901

Galway Gaels (1) 1930

Championships were not completed in the following years – 1899, 1920, 21, 24, 26, 27, 35.

In some records Tuam Krugers are credited with the 1899 championship. This is not correct, as they were not even founded at the time and no championship was completed in that year.

M.O.L.

The final resting place of a Martyr Priest. This beautiful monument marks the grave of Fr. Griffin in the grounds of St. Brendan's Cathedral, Loughrea, Co. Galway.

Photo: K. Hennelly.

CO. GALWAY SENIOR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS
COURTESY TUAM HERALD

Year	Winner	Runner Up	Venue
1889	Dunmore McHales	(W/O)	Ahascragh
1890	Caherlistrane 1-1	Mountbellew 0-0	Tuam
1891	Dunmore McHales 0-2	Mountbellew 0-0	Tuam
1892	Tuam Stars	(W/O Caherlistrane)	Turloughmore
1893	Tuam Stars	(Awarded)	
1894	Tuam Stars 0-5	Loughrea 0-0	Turloughmore
1895	Tuam Stars	(W/O Dunmore)	
1896	Tuam Stars 1-0	Loughrea 0-0	Turloughmore
1897	Loughrea	(Awarded over Tuam - late)	Athenry
1898	Loughrea 0-4	Dunmore0-2(disputed)	Mountbellew
1899	No championship played		
1900	Dunmore McHales 0-2	Belclare Harpers 0-0	Gurranes
1901	Tuam Krugers 0-5	Dunmore McHales 0-3	Gurranes
1902	Dunmore McHales 0-6	Tuam Krugers 0-4	Athenry
1903	Athenry DeWets 0-6	Galway Sarsfields 0-2	Athenry
1904	Athenry DeWets 2-5	Tuam Stars 1-3	Athenry
1905	St. Jarlaths 1-7	Athenry DeWets 0-3	Athenry
1906	Athenry DeWets 0-5	Dunmore McHales 0-2	Athenry
1907	Dunmore McHales 0-1	Ballinasloe 0-0	Tuam
1908	Tuam Stars	(Awarded over Ballinasloe)	
1909	Tuam Stars 0-6	Dunmore McHales 0-4	Athenry
1910	Dunmore McHales	(on objection over Ballinasloe)	
1911	Tuam Stars 3-0	Dunmore McHales 0-2	Tuam
1912	Dunmore McHales 3-0	Castlefrench 0-0	Athenry
1913	Ballinasloe 3-6	Clifden 1-1	Ballinasloe
1914	Ballinasloe 3-3	Mountbellew 0-0	Athenry
1915	Ballinasloe 3-8	Tuam Stars 0-0	Athenry
1916	Ballinasloe 2-6	Tuam Stars 0-2	Mountbellew
1917	Ballinasloe 3-3	Tuam Stars 0-3	Mountbellew
1918	Ballinasloe 1-5	Tuam Stars 0-0	Athenry
1919	Ballinasloe 2-7	Mountbellew 1-4	Mountbellew
1920	No championship played		
1921	No championship played		
1922	Ballinasloe 5-3	Tuam Stars 1-1	Athenry
1923	Ballinasloe	(No record available)	
1924	Championship abandoned (Ballinasloe & Dunmore in Final)		
1925	Ballinasloe	(beat Galway Gaels - no score available)	
1926	Championship abandoned by County Board		
1927	Championship abandoned by County Board		

1928	Ballinasloe 2-8	Tuam Stars 3-4	Mountbellew
1929	Ballinasloe 3-9	Galway Gaels 1-4	Ballinasloe
1930	Galway Gaels 1-4	Ballinasloe 1-3	College Road
1931	Annaghdown 4-2	Ballinasloe 0-13	Athenry
1932	Corofin 3-5	Tuam Stars 1-3	Parkmore
1933	U.C.G. 3-4	Dunmore McHales 2-5	Parkmore
1934	U.C.G. 5-9	Annaghdown 1-6	Renmore
1935	No championship due to American trip of Galway team		
1936	Wolfe Tones 0-9	Corofin 1-0	Tuam
1937	U.C.G. 6-7	Wolfe Tones 1-4	Galway
1938	Oughterard 2-5	Ballinasloe 1-3	Parkmore
1939	Ballinasloe 4-5	Renmore (Army) 1-1	Ballinasloe
1940	Renmore(Army)4-6	Dunmore McHales 2-3	Parkmore
1941	Wolfe Tones 2-8	Ballinasloe 0-2	Galway
1942	Tuam Stars 1-7	Erin's Hope 0-4	Parkmore
1943	Tuam Stars	(Awarded over U.C.G.)	
1944	Ballinasloe 1-9	Erin's Hope 1-3	Parkmore
1945	Ballinasloe 1-8	Oughterard 0-3	Parkmore
1946	Corofin 1-3	Ballinasloe 0-2	Parkmore
1947	Tuam Stars 1-7	Renmore (Army) 2-2	Ballinasloe
1948	Fr. Griffins 2-4	Ballinasloe 0-6	Parkmore
1949	Fr. Griffins	(W/O U.C.G.)	
1950	Fr. Griffins 4-8	Ballinasloe 2-3	Parkmore
1951	An Cath Gaelach 1-4	Ballinasloe 1-3	
1952	Tuam Stars 1-7	Oughterard 1-4	Clarenbridge
1953	Dunmore McHales 2-5	Oughterard 0-4	Tuam
1954	Tuam Stars 1-9	Dunmore MacHales 0-9	Tuam
1955	Tuam Stars 3-8	Ballinasloe 1-7	Athenry
1956	Tuam Stars 3-8	Ballinasloe 3-1	Ballinasloe
1957	Tuam Stars 4-7	Ballygar 2-6	Tuam
1958	Tuam Stars 2-15	Ballygar 1-4	Tuam
1959	Tuam Stars	(W/O Annaghdown)	
1960	Tuam Stars 1-10	Ballinasloe 0-6	Pearse St.
1961	Dunmore McHales 1-3	Ballygar 0-4	Pearse St.
1962	Tuam Stars 1-5	Dunmore McHales 0-6	Pearse St.
1963	Dunmore McHales2-19	Mountbellew2-4	Tuam
1964	Mountbellew 2-10	Corofin 1-4	Tuam
1965	Mountbellew 1-9	Dunmore McHales 1-6	Tuam
1966	Dunmore McHales2-12	Fr. Griffins 3-5	Tuam
1967	Fr. Griffins 1-6	Milltown 0-6	Tuam
1968	Dunmore McHales 2-1	Fr. Griffins 1-8	Tuam
1969	Dunmore McHales 1-8	Tuam Stars 1-6	Tuam
1970	Fr. Griffins 2-7	Corofin 1-8	Tuam

1971	Milltown 0-5	Ballinasloe 0-4	Tuam
1972	Fr. Griffins 4-10	Tuam Stars 2-7	Pearse St.
1973	Dunmore McHales2-11	U.C.G. 0-12	Tuam
1974	Mountbellew 1-5	Corofin 0-7	Tuam
1975	Fr. Griffins 0-9	Caltra 0-5	Tuam
1976	Killererin 2-5	Mountbellew 1-4	Tuam
1977	Corofin 1-9	Moycullen 0-3	Pearse St.
1978	Killererin 2-6	Milltown 0-11	Tuam
1979	Ballinasloe 0-9	Dunmore McHales 0-8	Pearse St.
1980	Ballinasloe 1-10	Corofin 0-8	Pearse St.
1981	Milltown 0-11	Ballinasloe 2-3	Tuam
1982	Annaghdown 1-9	Mountbellew 0-7	Tuam
1983	Dunmore 2-6	Clonbur 0-8	Tuam
1984	Tuam Stars 1-9	Dunmore McHales 0-7	Tuam
1985	Annaghdown 1-8	Mon. Abbey 1-6	Tuam
1986	Mountbellew 1-5	Milltown 0-4	Pearse St.
1987	Annaghdown 1-7	Milltown 0-7	Tuam
1988	Tuam Stars 1-8	Corofin 0-5	Tuam

DANCE

in

SEAPOINT BALLROOM, SALTHILL

on

TUESDAY, APRIL 28th, 1964

Music by

THE SKYROCKETS SHOW BAND
ENNISKILLEN
(First Time in Galway)

DANCING 9—1 ADMISSION 5/-

(Sponsored by Fr. Griffin Supporters' Club)

Another dance, this time in Seapoint in 1964.

HONOURS LIST

By Colm Hannelly

I wish to express a sincere thank you to Colm Hannelly Author of "Roscommon Sporting Records 1871-1982" for this comprehensive and detailed compilation of players who won All-Ireland honours, Railway Cup, National League and Provincial medals, and who also played with Fr. Griffins. In some cases the players may have been with other clubs at the time of victory but they did play with Fr. Griffins at some stage of their career.

Editor

The Father Griffins club like many other clubs produced many inter-county footballers most of whom played for Galway. County footballers from many counties in Ireland also played with Fr. Griffins when those players resided in Galway city. This means that many members of the Fr. Griffins club won All-Ireland medals in Senior, Junior, Under 21 and minor football. National League medals, Railway Cup medals, All-Star awards and Provincial football medals were also won by members of the Fr. Griffins club.

For example Jimmy Ward, the man behind the foundation of the Fr. Griffins club, was from Rosemount, Co. Westmeath and played county football for Westmeath and Galway. He followed the foot-steps of another Westmeath man Ned Mulholland who won an All- Ireland medal with Galway in 1938 when he was a member of the Wolfe Tones club which was the Galway city club before Fr. Griffins. Joe Young played for Galway in the 1956 All-Ireland final while Aidan Swords and Joe Looney were subs.

All-Ireland Senior Football Medal Winners

1956 - Joe Young, Aidan Swords, Joe Looney
1964 - Johnny Geraghty, Martin Newell, Tom Sands, Kieran O'Connor
1965 - Johnny Geraghty, Martin Newell, Tom Sands
1966 - Johnny Geraghty, Martin Newell, Colie McDonagh, Liam Sammon, Tom Sands

All-Ireland Junior Football Medal Winners

1958 - Paddy Dunne
1965 - Kiaran O'Connor, Colie McDonagh, Tom Sands, Frank Heaney Eddie Geraghty

All-Ireland Under 21 Football Medal Winners

1972 - Barney Costelloe

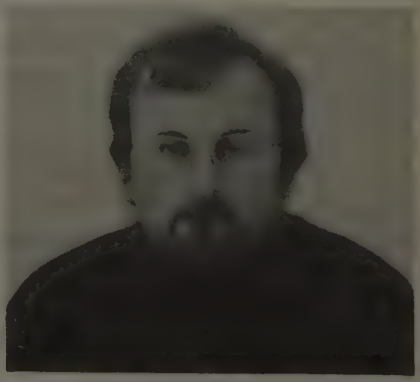
Fr. Eamonn McInerney P.P. Moycullen. Former Club Player.

Fr. Seán Foy P.P. Liscannor. Former Player and Club Chairman.

Canon Padraic O'Laoi, Ennistymon. Former Club President and Chairman of Galway County Board

Fr. P. Killian O.S.A. Now in Dublin. Former Club President

Fr. Tom Parker. Now in U.S.A. Former Club President and Player



Fr. Des. Forde, Chaplain Galway R.T.C. Committee Member

All-Ireland Minor Football Medal Winners

1952 - Eugene Dunleavy
1960 - Johnny Geraghty
1976 - Kieran Smith

National Football League Medals

1957 - Joe Young, Aidan Swords
1965 - Johnny Geraghty, Martin Newell, Tom Sands

Railway Cup Medals

1951 - Nace O'Dowd
1957 - Nace O'Dowd, Joe Young
1958 - Nace O'Dowd
1967 - Johnny Geraghty, Liam Sammon
1969 - Colie McDonagh, M.J. Keane

Texaco Footballer of the Year

1965 - Martin Newell

All-Star Awards

1971 - Liam Sammon
1973 - Liam Sammon

All-Ireland Colleges Football Medals

1946 - Seamus O'Rourke, Connacht Team
1958 - Michael "Tansey" Lyons, St. Jarlath's, Tuam
1960 - Johnny Geraghty, Eddie Geraghty, St. Jarlath's, Tuam
1960-61 - Gay Nicholson, St. Jarlath's, Tuam
1964 - Colie McDonagh

All-Ireland Vocational School Medals

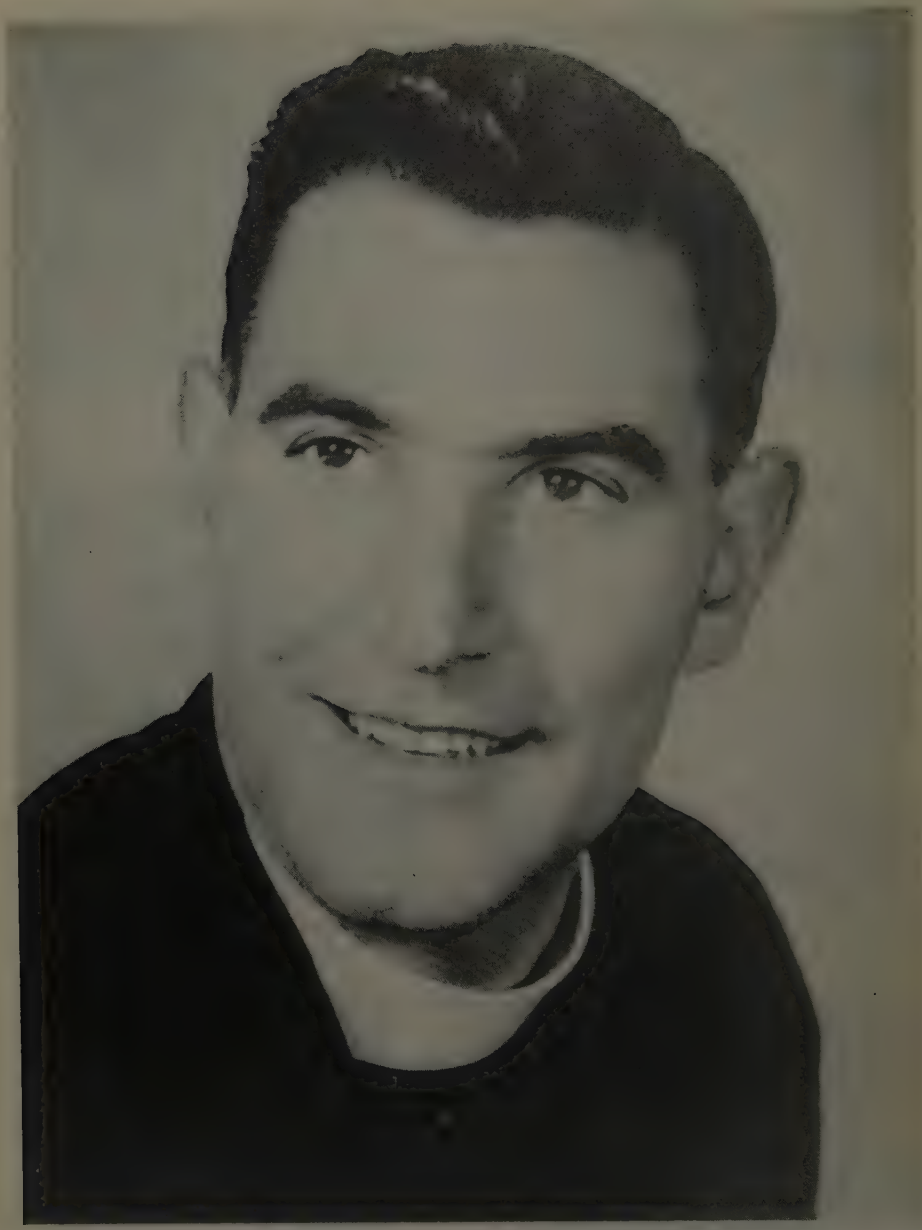
1965 - Emmett Farrell, Football
1986-87 - Eugene Keville, Hurling

All-Ireland Medals with other Counties
Senior Football

1946 - Brodie O'Donnell, Kerry
1952 - Aidan Corrigan, Cavan
1957 - Dan O'Neill, Louth

All-Ireland medals with other Counties
Junior Football

1966 - Pat Neary, London



Rev. Fr. Tony Hoade. A star midfield player with Fr. Griffins in the early 50's. Now in Australia.

All-Ireland medals with other Counties
Under-21 Football

1966 - Martin Joe Keane, Roscommon

All-Ireland Minor Football Medals with Other Counties

1947 - Dan McCaffery, Tyrone
1951 - Harry Connolly, Roscommon

National Football League Medals With Other Counties

1954 - Dan O'Neill, Mayo
1970 - Ray Niland, Mayo

Railway Cup Medals

1948 - Brodie O'Donnell, Munster
1973 - Tony Regan, Universities

All-Ireland Junior Hurling Medal

1965 - Martin Joe Keane, Roscommon

All-Ireland Runners-Up in Senior Football with Galway

1959 - Joe Young, Mick Laide, Paddy Dunne
1963 - Martin Newell
1971 - Colie McDonagh, Liam Sammon, Emmett Farrell, Brendan Colleran
1973 - Liam Sammon, Colie McDonagh, Brendan Colleran
1974 - Pat Sands, Colie McDonagh, Liam Sammon, Brendan Colleran

Connacht Senior Medal Winners

1954 - Jimmy Ward, Tom Higgins, Mick Hanley
1956 - Joe Young, Aidan Swords, Joe Looney
1957 - Joe Young, Aidan Swords, Paddy Dunne, Peter O'Shea
1958 - Joe Young, Paddy Dunne
1959 - Paddy Dunne, Joe Young, Mick Laide
1960 - Martin Newell, Joe Young
1963 - Martin Newell, Gene O'Driscoll
1964 - Johnny Geraghty, Martin Newell, Tom Sands, Kieran O'Connor
1965 - Johnny Geraghty, Martin Newell, Tom Sands
1966 - Tom Sands, Liam Sammon, Johnny Geraghty, Colie McDonagh, Eddie Geraghty
1968 - Johnny Geraghty, Colie McDonagh, Liam Sammon, Tom Sands, Ray Niland, Martin Newell

1970 - Colie McDonagh, Liam Sammon, Emmett Farrell, Johnny Geraghty, Brendan Colleran
1971 - Colie McDonagh, Liam Sammon, Johnny Geraghty, Emmett Farrell, Brendan Colleran
1973 - Liam Sammon, Colie McDonagh, Miko Nolan, Brendan Colleran
1974 - Pat Sands, Colie McDonagh, Liam Sammon, Brendan Colleran
1976 - Hubert Deane, Brendan Colleran

Connacht Junior Medal Winners

1948 - Seamus O'Rourke, Paddy Higgins, Jarlath Fahy
1949 - Paddy Higgins, Joe Keville
1954 - Jimmy Ward, Tom Higgins
1958 - Paddy Dunne
1960 - Gene O'Driscoll, Kevin Sexton
1961 - Harry Connolly
1965 - Kieran O'Connor, Colie McDonagh, Tom Sands, Frank Heaney, Eddie Geraghty
1966 - Jim McMahon, Dinny O'Shea, Mick Moylette
1972 - Dinny O'Shea, Miko Nolan, Gerry Mahony
1983 - Dermot Collins, Frank Brady, Hubert Deane, Pat Elwood

Connacht Under-21 Medal Winners

1964 - Liam Sammon, Rae Gilmore, Tom Gilmore, Frank Heaney, Colie McDonagh
1965 - Liam Sammon, Colie McDonagh, Michael Donnelly
1972 - Barney Costelloe

Connacht Minor Medal Winners

1948 - Jarlath Fahy
1952 - Eugene Dunleavy
1959 - Johnny Geraghty
1960 - Johnny Geraghty
1969 - Barney Costelloe, Johnny Kilkelly, Kevin McDonagh
1976 - Kiaran Smith

County Footballers

Senior -
Tom Higgins, Paddy Higgins, Mick Dowling, M. Duggan, Jimmy Ward, J.J. Walsh, Mick Collins, D. Fox, Seamus O'Rourke, S. Reidy, Paddy O'Brien, D. Blighe, Joe Keville, A. Roche, Aidan Corrigan, M. Holly, Dan McCaffrey, E. Kehoe, Kevin Scally, Nace O'Dowd, Sean Durkan, Donagh Forde, Sean Kindillon, Frank Duignan, Paddy Dunne, Noel Boylan, Peter O'Shea, Joe Looney, Aidan Swords, Kevin Swords, Gene

O'Driscoll, Martin Newell, Harry Connolly, Jarlath Fahy, Liam Sammon, Colie McDonagh, Emmett Farrell, Tom Sands, Pat Sands, Hubert Deane, Miko Nolan, Christy Cunningham, Mick Hanley, Donal McCowley, Jimmy Greally, Mick Laide, Colm Smith, Joe Young, Jimmy Kearns, Broddie O'Donnell, Martin Joe Keane, Ray Niland, Tony Regan, Wally French, Eddie Dunne, Johnny Geraghty, Kieran O'Connor, Brendan Colleran.

Junior –
Tom Higgins, Paddy Higgins, Seamus O'Rourke, Paddy O'Brien, Joe Keville, Sean Durcan, Paddy Dunne, Peter O'Shea, Kevin Swords, Kiaran O'Connor, Colie McDonagh, Tom Sands, Frank Heaney, Eddie Geraghty, Pat Neary, Harry Connolly, Jimmy Ward, Gene O'Driscoll, Kevin Sexton, Jim McMahon, Dinny O'Shea, Mick Moylette, Miko Nolan, Gerry Mahony, Dermot Collins, Frank Brady, Hubert Deane, Pat Elwood, Liam Sammon, Rae Gilmore, Tom Gilmore, Peter O'Shea, Pat Sands, Jim Noone, Johnny McGinley, John Newell, M. Kilmartin, Jarlath Fahy.

County Under–21 Footballers

Liam Sammon, Rae Gilmore, Tom Gilmore, Frank Heaney, Colie Mc Donagh, Michael Donnelly, Barney Costelloe, Pat Sands, Miko Nolan, Jim Noone, Mike Ryan.

MEET THE IRISH PERMANENT TEAM IN GALWAY

Michael Heaslip,
Regional Manager,
31, Eyre Square, Galway.
Tel: 091-66286/7/8.

Niall Keating,
Assistant Regional Manager

Jimmy Duggan,
Branch Manager.

Nial O'Reilly,
Branch Manager,
Galway Shopping Centre,
Headford Road, Galway.
Tel: 091-67124/5/6.

IRISH PERMANENT
The People's Choice

Gerald Cameron, Post Office, Bohermore, Galway, was one of Fr. Griffin's most promising young footballers. On the 26th April, 1988, while training with Liam Mellowes Hurling Team, Gerald collapsed and died. His was a most tragic loss to his parents, other members of his family and to the Fr. Griffin and Liam Mellowes Clubs. He was 24 years old at the time. He will be remembered.

Jack Divilly, Fr. Griffin's greatest ever supporter, from 1950 until the time of his death in 1984.

Peadar O'Dowd, local historian and writer, whose wonderful story on Fr. Griffin appears in this book.

A young Jimmy Ward, co-founder of the Fr. Griffin Football Club, with the late John Cotter in the Spring of 1948, and captain of the 1948/'49/'50 winning sides.

FR. GRIFFIN'S MURDER – THE AFTERMATH

By Paddy O'Brien

On behalf of the Fr. Griffin Club I would like to thank most sincerely the Griffin, Lyng and Mason families who have placed at the disposal of the club old newspapers, booklets and priceless personal photographs of Fr. Michael Griffin and his family for inclusion in this book.

In the Connacht Tribune dated 4th December 1920 one reads of murders, shootings, reprisals, arrests, burnings, evictions and death threats to our Bishop of that time Most Rev. Dr. O'Dea and priests of the diocese Fr. O'Meehan, St. Josephs, Fr. Cunnane, Moycullen and Fr. Considine, Gort. While I personally have no desire to dwell on the awful and tragic events of that time, no history of Fr. Griffin, no matter how brief, can be recorded accurately without including the true happenings of that time and placing the blame firmly where it belongs on the perpetrators of this horrendous crime that shocked the civilised world.

LATE FR. MICHAEL GRIFFIN
MURDER VERDICT RETURNED BY MILITARY INQUIRY

The adjourned inquiry into the circumstances that led to the death of the late Rev. Michael Griffin, C.C. was resumed on Monday afternoon (29th Nov) at Eglinton St. Police Station.

A gentleman, having been duly sworn, stated: In consequence of certain statements made to me on November 14th 1920, I looked out of my window two or three times with the object of seeing whether there were any masked men about. I saw none. I left my hotel the same evening about ten o'clock and went out towards the country a short distance past the post office. I saw no one. I returned to the hotel for a short time and again went out along Grattan Road, across the iron bridge towards the docks, and as far as the archway leading to the Longwalk. At the archway I turned back and returned by way of Dominick Street and Nile Lodge, passing the Rev. Fr. Griffin's house. I saw no one about. Going past Salthill Industrial School I came to the left hand side of the road, some little way past the school buildings, about two yards. I crossed the road and continued walking close by the wall on the opposite side, moving towards Salthill. It was getting up to midnight at this time. When at Mr. Binn's house I was held up by three men who were wearing what are commonly called trench coats and brown-coloured old caps. A flash lamp was turned on me when I was two or three paces from them and all three started asking me questions. Amongst other remarks, one was "We know this gentleman". I was twice asked "Where did you come from?" I replied "I have been for a walk". I was searched by this party who were armed one of whom had his

revolver ready for use. I do not think these were local men. They then let me go. When I had gone a few steps they called me to halt. They consulted among themselves and then let me go. The men were all of medium height, about 5 feet 6 inches and were not wearing trilby hats. I could not identify the men as the night was very dark. In my opinion the men had an English accent. These men were quite courteous to me. I had a watch and valuables on me but they were not interfered with.

Another witness, having been duly sworn stated: I am housekeeper for the Rev. Fr. O'Meehan, C.C. The late Fr. Griffin lodged with Fr. O'Meehan. I was in the house on the night of Sunday November 14th 1920, the night Fr. Griffin was taken away. I went to bed about eleven p.m. that night. I had been about an hour in bed when I heard a rap at the door with a man's hand. Fr. Griffin went to the front window and I heard him ask "Who is there?" I heard somebody reply but can't say what the answer was. Fr. Griffin then said, "All right I will be down in a minute". I then heard him go downstairs and open the door. Fr. Griffin returned upstairs accompanied by, I believe, one person. Fr. Griffin and the person who went with him remained upstairs for about a quarter of an hour, they then went downstairs and out through the front door. Although I was unable to hear what was said no voices were raised in anger and the conversation seemed to be normal. I saw no one during the course of these movements and remained in bed all the time. About twenty minutes after Fr. Griffin had left the house I heard what appeared to be a side-car going in the direction of Salthill.

A police witness, having been duly sworn, stated: About six p.m. on Monday, November 15th 1920, it was reported that Fr. Griffin was missing from his house since the previous night. The circumstances under which Fr. Griffin disappeared were also reported. At the request of the clergy we did not turn out immediately to look for him as it was expected that he would turn up that evening. As he had not returned by the following morning the country was searched for miles around by the police. The search was continued until his body was found, by whom we do not know. The first thing we heard of it was when prayers were asked in the various chapels for the repose of his soul. I am aware that the body was found on Saturday evening and was brought to Galway about seven a.m. the following morning, and yet the matter was not reported to the police. We have however, ascertained the grave where the body was found and have re-opened it and searched it and found a hat (which was produced for the inspection of the court). There is nothing to indicate to whom it belongs. It is an ordinary black velour hat. The grave was in the townland of Cloughskoltia near Barna and the hat was found in the bottom of the grave.

Declaration: The court declare that the late Rev. Michael Griffin C.C., Galway, died on or about November 15th 1920, at or near Cloughskoltia, near Barna, Co. Galway as the result of a gun-shot in the head, fired feloniously, wilfully and with malice aforethought, by some person or persons unknown, and that such person or persons unknown were guilty of murder. The court expressed their sincere sympathy with the relatives and many friends of the deceased.

Note:

In relation to above declaration, I have before me as I write a copy of the Wolfe Tone Annual from 1936. There is a chapter dedicated to the Patriot Priests and here is an extract from this article -

On a dark and stormy night they lured Father Michael Griffin from his home in Galway, evidently on the plea that some dying person needed him. "I would do more than that", he was heard to say, as he went out into the night. A week later his dead body was found in a lonely bog, a bullet hole through his brain. The enemy propagandists, big and little, brazenly stated, as they did in the case of others slain by them, that he had been killed by Republicans. When General Crozier resigned later from the Auxiliaries he disclosed the fact that Father Griffin had been murdered by Crown Forces.

HIS BISHOP'S TRIBUTE
MOST REV. DR. O'DOHERTY AND
THE LATE FATHER GRIFFIN

Addressing the congregation at 11.30 mass at the Cathedral on Sunday (St. Brendan's Loughrea 28th November 1920) his Lordship Most Rev. Dr. O'Doherty said - Notwithstanding the dread impressiveness of the Gospel I have just read for you, I cannot allow this day to pass without a few words concerning the tragedy which has shocked and saddened not only catholics but the whole civilised world. On Wednesday last (24th November) we lad to rest the mortal remains of our murdered Father Griffin. I know your feelings regarding this awful crime; they were manifested in no uncertain way on the occasion of the funeral. Your prayers for the dead were frequent and fervent. Your heartfelt sympathy went out to the widowed mother and her family as they stood by the open grave. There is not a priest in the diocese of Clonfert who does not feel the sense of personal loss such as one experiences on the death of a brother. For myself I may say that my sorrow can find no adequate expression in words. I first became acquainted with Father Griffin when he entered Maynooth, a bright, innocent, promising boy. Over seven years I watched his course there. No superior, no professor,

Meet army man Mick Lafferty, one of our former football greats and currently the clubs hard working secretary.

Seán Hynes with his Footballer of the Year Award. Seán is one of the clubs present day stars and also acts as trainer and vice-chairman.

had ever occasion to check in the smallest particular Michael Griffin of Clonfert.

Little more than three years ago he left that great college, "A priest for ever", to take up temporary work in the diocese of Galway, and it was I who recommended him to Dr. O'Dea. The Bishop, priests and people of Galway have never had the smallest reason to complain of my selection. All of them knew how unceasingly, how enthusiastically Father Griffin did his Master's work. Night and day he was at the service of those committed to his charge, and especially when a terrible epidemic brought sorrow and desolation into many a home. No wonder the people of Galway loved him! No wonder the people of Barna idolised him! The poor, in particular, and the little children were his dearest friends. There are tears, there are prayers for him in the workhouse and the hospital of Galway. The little ones on the street sadly miss the boy-priest whom they almost regarded as a playmate. Gentle and simple, rich and poor, young and old - he had merited and won the esteem and affection of them all. And if popular canonisation could grant him the title, he would now be regarded as a saint or a martyr.

It was a moving spectacle in Galway when people of every class, hour after hour, filed past the open coffin and touched his body, as a most sacred thing, with their hands and with pious objects, in the belief that the touch would gain for them an added blessing. Who knows? Perhaps the Church will one day make manifest that their instinct was true.

When the news of Father Griffins disappearance reached me I went as you know to Galway. People there suspected the worst, though they still endeavoured to cling to any strand of hope. I could not share their fears. I could not bring myself to believe that one who, like his Master, went about doing good, had been murdered in this land and in this century. Political views he had held, no doubt, but as far as they were concerned his active energies were devoted mainly to the preservation and spread of the Irish language. Was this a crime deserving of death? He could not be described, even by the most envenomed, as a wild agitator, or a bitter partisan. He had received no death notice as many of his brother priests had. Why then should anyone entertain serious fears for his safety? But the people of Galway were right and I was wrong. Human nature had sunk to lower depths than I had yet fathomed. Father Griffin was murdered and there was not even a Pilate to sentence him.

The story of his last hours has not yet been told. Perhaps, in this life it will never be known, although God has strange ways of bringing murder to light. All we know is that he was called from his bed when a gale was howling; that he cheerfully and hurriedly obeyed the

decoying summons which seems to have taken the form of some claim upon his priestly charity. "I would do more than that", he was heard to say. Then he disappeared into the night and the storm. Nearly a week later his body was discovered in a bog with the marks of a bullet which had passed through his brain. They had buried him at dead of night and in a lonely spot. But Divine Providence directed the discovery, and, thank God, we have had the melancholy consolation of bringing him home and burying him outside there in the Cathedral grounds with full ceremonial and amid the manifestations of universal christian sorrow.

Outsiders may say that, after all, this is but one of the many tragedies which are occurring every day and with increasing frequency. Even so, the murder of a priest causes a special shock even to non-Catholic minds. His character and his work have a certain sacredness for the most bigoted of them. We have read that when political and religious passions raged furiously in one of the cities in the North the Orangemen ceased fire while the priests attended the dying. Even they can admire the heroism of the Catholic priest and the motives which inspire it when he faces the rain of bullets or enters the house of pestilence to bring comfort and spiritual aid to those in need. They cannot withhold their tribute of admiration for the man who is willing at all times to sacrifice his life for the people confided in his care.

THREATS TO BISHOP
LONDON, TUESDAY 30TH NOVEMBER 1920

In the House of Commons, yesterday, Mr. T.P. O'Connor, M.P., questioned the Chief Secretary for Ireland regarding week-end crimes in Ireland and asked whether Sir Hamar Greenwood was aware that the Bishop of Galway, who had been prominent in denouncing crime, had received a letter containing the words -

> "If any members of his Majesty's forces are interfered with in Galway, you will meet with Father Griffins Fate. Beware."

Sir Hamar Greenwood replied that he was informed that the Bishop of Galway, Fr. O'Meehan, and Fr. Cunnane had received threatening letters. Police had assured the Bishop they would give him every protection, and asked his assistance in tracing the guilty parties in many crimes committed in his diocese.

FROM THE CONNACHT TRIBUNE DECEMBER 4TH 1920

LATE FATHER GRIFFIN'S LAST ACT

One of the last acts of the Rev. M. Griffin, B.A., C.C., Galway before he was abducted and killed was to enrol himself as a member of the Catholic Truth Society, which entitled him to a plenary indulgence on the day of enrolment and also at the time of death. "To us, his colleagues in the Sacred Ministry", says the secretary of the Catholic Truth Society, "this is but another manifestation of God's love and grace towards this devoted soul".

REV. J.W. O'MEEHAN, B.D.

Most Rev. Dr. O'Dea, Bishop of Galway has granted Father O'Meehan, C.C., Rahoon, who keenly feels the death of his late colleague, a short period of rest from his parochial duties. Fr. O'Meehan will, therefore, be absent for a fortnight and the work of the parish will be attended to by Father Davis, P.P. and Father P. O'Dea, C.C.

Victory Ceilidhe

Fr. Griffin Gaelic Football Club

Commercial Ballroom

FRIDAY, November 25th, 1949.

Dancing : **9—2.** Admission: **2/6**

Music by CORRIB CEILIDHE BAND.

County Champions of 1949 celebrate with a victory ceilidhe.

John Faherty a man who would find a place on any Fr. Griffin team over the past forty years is also an outstanding trainer, as he has proved with his good friend Pat Sands.

Another army man is Mick Winters who has served the club with distinction for many years. Mick is pictured here with his son Kevin (a future Griffins star).

THE BALLAD OF FATHER GRIFFIN

O ye brown bogs of Galway, did you take him to your breast?
Our Sagart young and holy, did you give him welcome rest?
Like Christ, he loved his little flock and tended them with care,
Like Christ he died that they be saved – his life was all a prayer,
Within the Church long hours he spent, where fragrant mem'ries cling,
Beside his Lord in converse sweet, his Sacramental King,
His priestly hands were ever raised in blessings kind and good,
The children loved to hear his voice, their ways he understood
As down along the streets he walked, they pattered where he went,
For poor and old he had a word that brought their hearts content,
The quiet ways of life were his, a gentle priest was he,
Who followed in Christ's Footsteps in his sacred ministry.

O ye brown bogs of Galway, did you take him to your breast?
Our Sagart brave and saintly, did you give him peace and rest.
On that night in dark November when Englands minions rude
Had lured him from his humble home unto your solitude?
A lying tale they told him of a soul in need of him,
And when he hastened to the "Call", from out the shadows dim
Crept Black-and-Tans who bore him off and slew him ere twas dawn,
While the winds wailed in sorrow through the swaying ceannabhain.
O, cruel murder of our priest, our hearts cry out to God,
For vengeance on the hellish horde who dyed the Irish sod,
With blood of many a martyr brave, of many a saint and friar,
While the faith of Father Griffin sets a Nations soul on fire.

O, ye brown bogs of Galway, did you take him to your breast,
When they dragged him to your loneliness, and flung him there to rest?
In that solitude of sorrow, do the curlews meet and cry,
As the black clouds of anguish go swiftly scudding by?
O, ye wild winds of Connacht, methinks you moan in woe
While the grey waves of Galway go sadly to and fro
With endless dirge of mourning for the foul deed of that night,
When the priest of God and Mary won a martyr's crown of light.

Lillian M. Nally

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FR. MICHAEL GRIFFIN

Fr. Michael Griffin, was born at Gurteen, Ballinasloe. He was ordained from Maynooth in 1917 and was transferred from Ennistymon to the Parish of Rahoon in June 1918.

At the age of 28 he was lured to his death by British Forces on the night of November 14th, 1920. On Saturday, November 20th, his body was found in a bog near Barna. He had been shot through the head.

When a group of enthusiasts gathered together in Galway in the Spring of 1948 to form a football club, they unanimously agreed to call that club Fr. Griffins.

A few months later, the fledgling club had won the Galway Senior Championship, providing a glorious opening chapter to a story of success that was to follow and make Fr. Griffins the most successful club ever in the city.

They are the only city club to have won three senior championships in a row, and the only city club to have won the title seven times in all and the Connacht Championship twice, in addition to success at juvenile, minor and U-21 levels.

Some years ago club members and their friends unveiled a plaque at the house in Montpelier Place, Sea Road, where Fr. Griffin was lured from on the night he was murdered. A memorial also marks the spot in Barna where his body was found.

This book is the story of more than forty years of triumph and tribulation, the great footballers and the great characters who have formed the rich tapestry that is the history of Fr. Griffins Club.

PRICE IR £5.00